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E G Y P T,  
AND  
M E H E M E T    A L I.

BY  
  
PRINCE PUCKLER MUSKAU.

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1845.



E G Y P T,  
AND  
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CHAPTER I.

DEPARTURE. THE SLAVE. THE PYRAMIDS.

BELOVED and esteemed German reader. Permit me to avail myself of the present favourable opportunity, to send you a respectful salute from the summit of the highest pyramid at Dshiseh.

Beyond the green and vast expanse of the Delta, which is now glistening so beautifully

in the twilight; beyond the blue sea, which, farther than my view can reach, joins this Delta; and, lastly, beyond all the other sunny countries, whose shores are washed on the opposite side, by the same sea, in that blessed and genial climate, where you can be said to enjoy life, I trust that you will think of me with the same affection that I feel for you, and persevere in your generous forbearance, towards the many faults of your faithful correspondent even though an Anglo-Scottish review has, recently, gravely asserted, that I am only worthy of being read in an *English* translation.

And across the silent desert which forms so dreary and awful a frame-work to those most fertile fields, I again greet you, my brave champions, who, unsolicited, have so often broken a lance for the distant friend, whom the Orient and its fascinations, have detained from you for some years.

As a good Christian, I also salute my enemies, anonymous and avowed; critical highwaymen, so nearly resembling in their hearts, the dry and burnt up sands around me; and, above all, you pious souls on the Spree's arid shores, who are so anxious to throw their sand into the dear German

public's eyes—in which laudable undertaking, however, you have not as yet succeeded, because the aforesaid public has been always so impolite, as to turn its back upon you.

But now, having discharged my duty towards my native country, I look towards the East, and fix my delighted eyes upon Father Nile, and Kahira's numerous minarets, towers, and palaces, crowned by the majestic and frowning citadel of the Mokkatam. There also, do I greet you, Mehemet Ali, the great regenerator of Egypt, the creator of a new future for millions, and the most enlightened son of the Orient.

And, close beneath my feet, I salute the sphinx, which, although it has stood there silent, for thousands of years, speaks to us, eloquently of bygone splendour and greatness; of wonders too incredible for our time, and of riddles, that nobody has as yet solved; although an inspired Frank, whom death has, unfortunately, removed too soon from the scene of his labours, had already begun to lift the veil that shrouds the mysteries of ages.

And, looking up at the stars, which are beginning to glimmer through the twilight, I finally salute posterity. They will know more than we do of the past, as well as of the future;

and, perhaps, one of the most important seats of civilization, will again be at the foot of the same pyramids, from which, as Napoleon said, "forty centuries look down upon us."

As Mehemet Ali once observed, the world is a wheel, and if we could but retain our place on it as long as the pyramids, we might, in its revolutions, witness the return of the same circumstances. And for the preservation of these unique monuments, there is, in fact, but little to fear for centuries to come, provided the English antiquarians do not actually blow them into the air, from their very love of art.

We have here, just now, one of the most zealous amateurs I have ever met with, who employs daily, several hundred Bedouins in boring the patient monuments in every part; even the sphinx will be pierced through by means of an iron stake, to discover whether it be a solid block, or as hollow in the body, as many living statues are in the head. Yet the implements prove too weak, they break one after another, and the advantage of this violent struggle, is still on the side of the old monuments.

They lose a few stones, in the engagement it is true, but the enemy remains just as unsuc-



cessful as before, and their concealed treasures continue virginally closed to him.

Harmless jokes aside, I really feel more confidence in the exertions of the gallant and amiable Colonel Howard Wyse than in those of most others. I have no doubt that, by his sagacity and perseverance, he will at length make important discoveries here, and strangers must at least feel grateful to him for employing a portion of his labourers in disencumbering the half buried corridors in both the large pyramids, and rendering them more accessible to the lovers of art.

He has also discovered some small and hitherto unknown chambers, and entertains a confident hope that he shall soon arrive at a large apartment under the supposed royal tombs.

We squeezed ourselves into the hole bored for this purpose, and had difficulty enough in getting safe out again.

I must however proceed with my narrative in its proper order.

His Highness the Viceroy had, about a fortnight before, left for Upper Egypt, where he was good enough to say he would wait for me, as I was not prepared to follow him immediately. I could not however put off my journey

any longer, and therefore deferred, until my return, the inspection of all that remained for me to view at Cairo.

On the 21st of February I left the metropolis, accompanied by Dr. Koch, nephew of the celebrated Munich doctor of the same name, and general, staff-physician of the Egyptian navy, whom Mehemet Ali had had the kindness to assign to me as medical attendant. We were embarked very comfortably in two good *Kangshes*, granted to me by the government, with its usual munificence.

My small suite consisted, besides the doctor and his servant, of a Viceroy's kawass, my dragoman, Giovanni, my valet de chambre, Ackermann, a Greek page from Candia, named Fannis, and a Frenchified Arabic cook, and to render the tediousness of so long a journey by water less monotonous, an Abyssinian female slave, whom I had purchased a few days before for a considerable sum. It was to me an inexhaustible source of amusement during the journey to study the character of this original girl, whom civilisation had neither been able to spoil nor yet to improve in anything; and it did not detract from the interest of this study, that the object of it was in beauty of form a faithful imitation

of Titian's Venus, with only a difference of colour.

When I purchased her, fearing that any one else would outbid me, I paid at once the price demanded, without bargaining; she still wore the costume of her country, that is to say, nothing but a girdle of narrow leather, ornamented with small shells.

The slave dealer had however thrown a large muslin covering over her, which was removed by the party intending to buy, and therefore placed no impediment in the way of the strictest scrutiny.

We were four or five "young men," as the *ci-devant jeune homme* would say, and were all astonished at the faultless symmetry of this savage girl's shape, to which was added, a characteristic *chiffonné* face, such as I like, without its pretending to great regularity of features.

But her form! How in Heaven's name do those girls, who walk bare-footed, and never wear gloves, manage to get those delicate hands and feet, formed like a sculptor's model; such a firm and beautiful bosom, although never dreaming of stays; such pearly teeth, although innocent of brush or tooth-powder, and although mostly bare, and exposed to the

scorching rays of the sun, such a satin skin, of a texture not to be equalled in Europe, and whose bright copper-colour, like a pure mirror, is undisfigured by the smallest spot?

The only reply to this is, that nature must be in possession of toilet secrets and recipes for beauty, which can never be equalled by art.

It was well that I saw all these beauties at the sale, for I should have had less opportunity for it, as Ajiame, (that is the name of the Abyssinian fair one), is now, by my directions, attired in a decent Oriental garb, with stockings and yellow slippers, and which only allowed me to see her face, and sometimes her wonderful hand, with a part of her well-rounded arm. It is needless for me to add, that I am too conscientious, and even too liberal a Prussian to treat her still as a slave.

On entering my house she became free, although I am afraid, she has not as yet a very clear notion of what freedom is, for, when I announced to her the fact, in her own language, with the assistance of an interpreter, she kissed my hand, and then pressing it submissively against her forehead, whispered, that I was her master, and had only to command what she was to be, and what she was to do.

It is certainly inconvenient, that, for want

of room, she is obliged to reside behind a curtain, which was put up in a hurry, in the small sleeping chamber of my boat, but in the first place, to the pure-minded all is pure, and in the second, she is free, and I am one of those knights, who are ever mindful of that precept of chivalry, which Voltaire cites in one of his printed letters to Mademoiselle Clairon; let those who are curious look for it.

At present, however, the lady has the whole boat to herself, guarded by my page, instead of a Eunuch, as is the custom in this country, whilst we others proceed to Dshiseh, where we have been invited to a merry parting feast by the excellent Major Warin.

On the following morning I took leave of my hospitable host in his garden, which has been entirely planted by himself, for Major Warin loves, like Cincinnatus, to win with a laborious hand from the earth its richest and most innocent treasures, and is besides as conversant with botany as with military affairs. I had consequently occasion to admire here a number of plants, perfectly unknown to me, such as the young specimen of a gigantic tree from Kordofar, which in one year has already shot up several yards from its root; the sen-

sitive *Acacia* with its magnificent blossoms ; the purple orange of Schubra, a bush, whose blossoms, formed like roses, appear in the morning white, at noon pink, and in the evening blue, changing colours, like the holiday suit of the wizard Beyrois, at Brunswick, with a great many other curious plants.

In this paradise of flowers I also took leave of my kind and talented Cicerone M. Lubbert, and I parted from him with deep regret.

Really, if the word "*amiable*" did not already exist, it ought to be invented for M. Lubbert. *La jeune et vieille France* is combined in him, in a manner rarely met with, and although thoroughly the Frenchman, he shews but the pleasing qualities of that nation.

The most winning politeness, a mind always serene, an inexhaustible fund of conversation, the art to narrate, as well as to listen, a happy wit without acrimony, nor too much *medisance*, united with fine tact, and the confidence of a man of the world, combine to render M. Lubbert, one of the most delightful companions I ever knew ; and, I heartily regret, that I am not a great potentate, to be enabled to attach him permanently to my person. M. Lubbert, who has here, an ample field for his talents, and has also, lately, been named

historiographer of Egypt, occupied in France, the post of a *gentilhomme ordinaire de la chambre du roi*; and, during the reign of Charles X., had the management of the royal theatres under the nominal ministry; a charge, which brought him into intimate contact with the royal family, and the whole of the court, and gave him opportunities of forming a rich fund of the most piquant anecdotes. Whoever can peep behind the scenes, both at the court and theatre, must see a great deal that is concealed from the multitude; and, no one is better assisted by memory and ability, than M. Lubbert, to give his reminiscences the proper seasoning.

The leap from theatrical manager to historiographer, and councillor in the home department, certainly appears somewhat strange; but, as the stage is meant as a representation of the world, and, as the world itself, is only a larger stage, he, as a man of mind, will be found as serviceable in his present capacity, as he has been in that of director of the military school at Thura.

Before we left Dshiseh, we crept into a hot furnace, to see eggs hatched by a peculiar process, (the reader need not fear a description of it!) and inspected, after the fowl manufactory,

another, in which *salmiak* is produced. Then we dived into immense fields of waving clover populated by all the horses and donkeys in the vicinity ; who, about this time, are sent for several months to grass, (*bersins*) and are left there to their fate, to browse uninterruptedly, with their feet tied together ; one of the most injurious and absurd customs of the East, of which, I shall again have occasion to speak.

The road appears long, for the Pyramids deceive you in an extraordinary manner as to their real distance. At Cairo, you think that you could reach them with your hand, and yet, from Dshiseh, you have to ride several hours, before you get to them.

At the confines of the desert, we were received by half a dozen Bedouins, who forced themselves upon us as guides, and, although we assured them, that two were the utmost we should want, yet there was no possibility of getting rid of them.

My eyes now sought anxiously, for the colossal Sphinx, which, some years back, had been quite freed from the sand ; but, is again, buried in it up to the neck, so that the head only remains visible.

At a distance its physiognomy may still be



recognized, but on coming near, disfigured as it is, it becomes only a shapeless mass; upon which, however, a great part of the red colour, with which the whole was once painted, is still preserved. In its present state, it resembles rather a mushroom than a head, and somewhat disappointed my expectations, which had been wound up too high. I must also candidly own, that the pyramids themselves did not make a more favourable impression upon me, and did not appear to me by far so imposing in the vicinity as in the distance; too often the lot of the great on earth! On ascending them, however, this feeling changes, but not in so great a degree as I had anticipated; and if a comparison can render the thing more clear I may say, that the Munster at Strasbourg, at its base as well as at its top, created a much more powerful impression upon my feelings.

For this day it was now too late for any further researches. Therefore after having arranged for ourselves a little habitation in the natural cavity of a rock, which serves as a base to another smaller pyramid, destroyed long since, and set up our tents around it—close to the sandpass, at whose entrance four palm trees and three sycamores are still standing, in the

middle of the desert—we contented ourselves for the evening with summing up within ourselves the general impression made on us, however meagre that might be. I only took a cursory survey of a few mummy wells, of a depth of from fifty to sixty feet, viewed the sarcophagus of grey granite, covered with hieroglyphics which had been found in them and raised with great trouble, and are now lying in pieces above ground ; paid after that a visit to Colonel Wyse, who had introduced *comfort* in the most habitable of the Catacombs, and formed there a small colony, neatly surrounded by a hedge of canes, and then under the light of heaven's stars, sank fatigued into the arms of the kind God Morpheus, full of expectation as to what the narrow night might produce.

The Consuls of Austria and France, with Messieurs Linnant and Cavillia, had *intended* being of our party, but had all disappointed us. An express called M. Lesseps to Alexandria ; the death of Madame Champion detained M. Laurin at Cairo ; M. Linnant was obliged to go to his *barrage*, and Captain Cavillia must no doubt have been visited by an apparition of his familiar spirit, for he had suddenly started on a journey without any one's know-

ledge. The only companion left to us, was however of the most original description: an old man of eighty years of age, half blind, yet still more capable of enduring fatigue than many a young man; and as much at home in the region of pyramids and catacombs, as if he had spent his whole life in the darkness of these mysterious habitations.

This singular being, who resembles in appearance an Egyptian nut cracker, never sleeps anywhere but in the open air, even at his own house at Cairo, be the weather what it may, a fancy to which he probably owes the wretched state of his red and swollen eyes. He has had a coffin made, on which he once a month, by way of an original sort of *memento mori*, takes his dinner. With regard to his other worldly pursuits, he is nominally interpreter to the French Consulate, that is, without any real functions, and deals besides, without making exorbitant demands, in antiquities of all sorts. His name is Msarra, as he pronounces it; whether he is a Christian or Moslem, I really forgot to enquire; at any rate he is a philosopher, for he knows how to bear the troubles of this world with great resignation, and does not fear death; his greatest notoriety was, however, acquired by accompanying my

honored friend, General Migutoli, when he opened the great Pyramid of Sakkara, a chapter, which by the bye, it is rather dangerous to touch upon, for, if he once begins, he never leaves off talking of it.

Msarra insisted upon our visiting first, a vault, discovered by him, at the bottom of which still lies a sarcophagus of pink granite, which the new proprietor would willingly have exchanged for one of much less weight in metal ; I humoured his foibles, but only in part—that is, I examined, crawled, and dislocated my limbs, but I bought nothing.

I then left the good old man at the foot of the smallest pyramid, which I intended ascending. It is constructed with the largest blocks of all ; still shews a polished surface in its marble and granite dress, and seems altogether to have been the most splendid, although the smallest of the whole group. This is the pyramid, of which Herodotus tells the well known tale of the lascivious Princess ; and in reality it opposes, in the ascent to the summit, as few impediments, as the royal maid did to the caresses of her admirers. But it defends its inner sanctuary better than its foundress did, and although Colonel Wyse has already pierced into it, with immense difficulty, from the north side, a small

aperture of fifty nine feet in depth, the opening does not seem as yet likely to lead to a favourable result. Several former attempts to find the entrance from the other side, have also failed; some time ago, however, an Arab proposed to Msarra, for a sum of a thousand piastres, to betray the real entrance, which, as he affirmed, was known to him by ancient tradition. They hesitated too long to accept the offer, and when at length they agreed to do so, the old Bedouin was dead. As for myself, I believe, from what I have observed, that researches made in this way will only be attended with useless trouble; and that the exalted personages, in whose honor those stately monuments were erected, are not to be found in them, but in all cases underneath them.\*

This refers to the largest pyramid as well as to the smallest, and if the former is really the grave of Pharaon-Suphis, according to

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\* Since the above was written, a Sarcophagus without hieroglyphics has, in fact, been found under the Pyramid, but it was empty and mutilated, the sanctuary having long since been desecrated by persons in search of treasure.—*Note by the Author.*

Champollion, or of Cheops, according to Herodotus, the small and unadorned chambers discovered in them, in which the two great sarcophagi stand, are certainly not tombs of kings, but merely of subordinates or priests, and the old respectable king lies still undisturbed where Herodotus points out, in the bosom of the rock, upon which the gigantic tumulus of stone was afterwards erected ; for after all we cannot give any other name than *tumuli* of stone to these rough beginnings of art, without any sculpture or hieroglyphics, although in the time of Herodotus, they were again surrounded by the ornaments of an advanced art, with temples, sphinxes, colosses, court yards, and splendid avenues, all of which were ornamented with hieroglyphics, whilst the old monuments were left with a holy veneration in their primitive simplicity.\*

It is not even improbable that several of the comparatively low, narrow corridors and cham-

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\* The hieroglyphics which Major Wyse pretends to have just discovered in the great pyramid are not cut in the stone, but merely drawn on the wall, and perhaps recently too, with a finger, dipped in colour.

bers in which there is often scarcely room for kneeling or lying down, were excavated at later periods for certain purposes of the priests, and built into the pyramids, just as the English are now proceeding in their exploration of these colossal monuments, only less systematically, and with fewer auxiliaries.

The view from the top of the small pyramid is certainly very inferior to that from the largest ; but the disposition of the different court yards, avenues, as well as the situation of the many dilapidated buildings in the vicinity is best overlooked from here. Of five smaller pyramids which stood in a row immediately before the small one, three are still in good preservation. One of them ascends in broad, steplike divisions, whilst in all the others the stone partitions are certainly constructed one above the other in such a manner as to enable one to mount them ; but in comparison to the whole body they are too low and narrow and much too dilapidated to present to the eye the effect of a gradation, owing to which, the pyramids in close vicinity look like roughly piled up stone heaps, in which regular arrangement is scarcely perceivable. This is very injurious to the grandeur of the impression which they are calculated to make. When

they were still covered with polished stones, or plastered with shining stucco (as a small portion of the top of the second pyramid still exists) and presented thus immense flat planes on each side, and when the proportion of their colossal height was demonstrated more clearly by the low buildings standing close by, their aspect must have been infinitely more imposing. At present, I repeat, it disappoints even a moderate expectation. But still more than by the exterior of the pyramids is one disappointed in the interior, by the small size of the labyrinthine corridors, seemingly constructed only for serpents and jackalls, as well as by the insignificant, useless, and bare chambers of the two large pyramids, which, from their want of height, sometimes appear quite absurd.

As soon as we had descended from the so called small pyramid, for by itself it still appears an enormous mass, we proceeded into the interior of the large one. The entrance, which is of rude, but bold and colossal proportions, and similar to the druidical style of building, is the only thing which struck me here as being grand, for, as already stated, corridors, in which one can scarcely turn round or advance otherwise than in a crouching pos-



ture, or even crawling on one's belly, and which, after all that trouble, lead to some sanctuary, which consists only in a couple of wretchedly dark chambers of the dimensions of a servant's room, the walls of which are covered with sombre, once polished, but now faded granite plates, without a trace of writing, decoration, or images, seem to me to be just as little an object for admiration as the two simple stone tombs which are to be seen here, especially to any one who has beheld the great works of art of the Egyptians, and their real wonders at Thebes. To me the latter were then unknown, yet even without this comparison, the first impression was such as I have stated, and as I am no learned antiquary, engaged in a voyage of discovery, I only endeavour to render to the reader a true and faithful picture of the whole, according to the impression it has made on me individually, which the learned are but too apt to neglect.

With my usual perseverance I crawled through everything that was opened, and ascended the ladders into the holes discovered partly in modern, partly in ancient times (as for instance, the so-called chamber of Davison.) All this is very hot and fatiguing work, but none of it in the least dangerous, excepting

perhaps the descent, by means of cuts in the wall, into a well two hundred and eighty feet in depth, which from the *soi-disant* chamber of the Queen, (who perhaps was only some lady of the court or the mistress of some priest,) leads into the deepest descending corridor, which corridor terminates in a natural vault in the rock, near the centre of the pyramid, and in its foundation. From this cavern, on the opposite side, another narrow and horizontal corridor, leads still further towards the centre, and then leaves off suddenly. Here perhaps is the key to the still undiscovered treasures, and here unceasing researches ought to be made, for the remains of the king must lie, (if indeed they are still in existence) in the heart of the rock, formerly surrounded by an aqueduct from the Nile, as we are told by the father of historians, who certainly does not speak from ocular conviction, but merely gives us the doubtful *dicta* of priests as his authority.

The loop-holes, which are found in the wall of the room called the king's chamber, have, as we were assured, been followed up more than one hundred feet; Major Wyse thinks that he has discovered their exit above, but all this is a matter of very trifling importance.

After a lapse of a few hours, we worked our way out of the region of tombs, and hailed again the rosy light of day ; stretching our wearied limbs on the colossal stones at the entrance, we had some oranges and coffee, and soon felt ourselves so wonderfully reinvigorated by this prudent *intermezzo*, that boldly leading the attack, I induced my companions to complete our examination of the exterior, by ascending shortly before sunset to the top of the pyramid which is five hundred feet in height. In fifteen minutes' time we had reached the summit without inconvenience, and were gratified by one of the most magnificent, or at any rate most original prospects in the world.

The red-looking desert, with more than fourteen large pyramids, namely, those of Dshiseh itself, then of Abusir, Sakkara, and Dashfur, seen for the most part at a most favorable distance, is not the least interesting feature of this splendid triumvirate of city, meadow land and desert.

We remarked, by-the-bye, that since Dr. Koch had visited the place for the first time, according to his statement, a great piece of the desert, in the direction of the pyramids, must have been cultivated, which can also be distinctly seen by the colour of the ground, as the

newly ploughed land looked still sandy and light, whilst the old showed only earth of a deep black. Thus modern culture will soon bring fields and gardens close to the old monuments, as no doubt was formerly the case, for although the ancient Egyptians fancied building the Necropolis on the edge of the desert, I do not believe they would have purposely built it in the midst of the sand.

In the decay of civilization, the desert has certainly begun by encircling first those monuments which lay nearest to it, just as the tombs of the Caliphs near Cairo, now stand in the desert, although, of these it is *well ascertained* that they were originally surrounded on all sides by rich gardens and orange groves.

A nation so sensible and so far advanced as the Egyptians were, cannot be held guilty of such an absurdity, as that of building their noblest monuments, the tombs, so far from all their cities, in the midst of the desert, as they now appear.

Those monuments, as images of death, were placed rather at the confines of vegetable life, and beyond them, commenced the mysterious and immeasurable desert.

My companions found the descent much

more troublesome and giddy than the climbing up. I was of a contrary opinion, and whilst I was the last to reach the top, I was by a long distance the first at the bottom, for it is rather awkward to swing oneself over steps of three feet in height, while to jump down on them in well-timed measure is a real delight, and pleasantly reminds old people, like myself, of their boyish days.

The whole ascent is such a trifle to those who know how to make use of their legs, that a good rock-climber might easily lay a wager to ascend the great pyramid three times in a-day, and one must be more timid than an old woman, to discover any danger in it.

It is different with the second pyramid, which we ascended the following morning, until we were near the pointed top. It is within a few feet, as high as the one which is, *par excellence*, called the Great, but of much smaller circumference at its base, consequently much more steep, and its steps are also much more damaged than in the great pyramid.

On reaching the top, we could at once observe, by the almost total absence of modern names and inscriptions, that visitors rarely

ascend here. Nevertheless some have reached the highest point, even over the slippery surface. This is, however, only attainable by ladders tied together, and other auxiliaries. It is said, that when Napoleon inspected the pyramid, a French soldier ascended to the highest point with the assistance only of his limbs.

This must have been Mazurier's father, or I should have some difficulty in believing it. However this may be, I myself mounted as high as can be done by ordinary amateurs, without employing artificial aid, and engraved 'on one of the smooth plates, the title, Christian and surname of my friend Julia, in the same way that M. de Chateaubriand had his name inscribed *per procuration* on the great pyramid.

Whoever is aware of the decided objection which the said amiable lady has at all times entertained to *locomotion* of any sort, and above all, the ascending of any height, were it only that of a simple stair-case, as the movements of sitting, lying down and riding, are the only ones she is accustomed to, will be rather surprised to find her here, set down as a determined mountaineer; on a spot where eagles and vultures only are wont to rest. I

have imprinted therefore, I may say, on those mysterious monuments another private enigma.

The interior of this second pyramid was opened by Belzoni. The corridors are here a little more spacious, the chambers more numerous, and some of them also a little larger than in the sister pyramid, but just as bare and void of ornament, and just as incomprehensible as regards the object of this labyrinthine structure.

A courtyard cut out of the solid rock surrounds this monument, and from the fact of the blocks on the ground being prepared for cutting out, it would seem that the original architects intended going still farther.

On the smoothly chiselled outer walls of this yard there are to be seen some hieroglyphics of a later period, and also a ring of the great Rhamses.

Some remains of buildings, near the excavated spot, show Cyclopian walls, quite in the manner of the great wall on the Pnyx at Athens, and totally different from the style of the pyramids themselves; in the ruins of the avenue, however, which lead to the pyramid, you find the largest blocks of any employed here, and which only yield to those of Thebes in size.

The serenity of the evening tempted me once more to ascend to the top of the great pyramid, for a farewell view, and in this second visit I could not help thinking that on its flattened top there must at one time have stood a colossus, as on similar monuments at lake Mœris, although Herodotus does not make any mention of it.

The next morning as I was on the point of mounting my horse, to continue my journey, Major Wyse sent word to me, that he had just discovered a new entrance in the second pyramid, for that indefatigable man pursues his operations on all three simultaneously.

I found his statement correct, but as this low entrance only leads to an already discovered corridor in the interior, there is little gained by it; I wish the gallant Major, with all my heart, more brilliant results for his industry, perseverance, and liberal expenditure.

Mr. Cavillia, who some time since discovered, close to the pyramids, a singular structure of vaults and corridors adjoining each other, the plan and object of which have been hitherto unintelligible, assured us at Cairo, "that he discovered at a distance of a few miles in the desert the foundations of pyramids, the greater part of whose granite blocks had been again



dissolved in dust, from which he concluded, that if the still standing pyramids of sandstone were four or five thousand years old, those of pulverized granite must have been constructed at least ten times as far back !”

His desertion from our party deprived me of the pleasure of inspecting this “ granite dust” with my own eyes.

On proceeding on my way through the uniformity of the desert, I was almost angry with myself for having been more vividly impressed by many a gothic structure of the middle ages, than by these renowned wonders of the world, as for example in former years, the Pantheon at Rome had appeared to me much grander than the Church of St. Peter’s, which is twenty times as large, but I was not wrong. The triumphs of art must always stand higher than those of material only. Yet, on reflecting coolly, one cannot but be astonished at the nature of the materials with which the whim of a king attempted to defy eternity.

The three pyramids of Dshiseh contain 4,693,000 cubic metres, which shews that the stones of these monuments would suffice to construct a wall nine feet in height, and one foot in thickness, extending over a distance of about 1,400 leagues, for instance from Alexan-

dria through Africa, as far as the coast of Guinea.

Among the six Bedouins, who constituted our faithful shadows during the time we remained here, there was one of the most magnificent looking men I had ever seen, the finished picture of a Hercules, who, when he threw off his light garment in the vapour bath of the royal chamber, and stood before us naked in the reflection of the torch light, would have thrown an artist into ecstasies as a model of symmetry. I love beauty in any shape, and therefore tried to engage him in my service, which however turned out to be a matter of great difficulty, as he had a wife and family, and considerable landed property, but at last he made up his mind to come with me, in consideration of a high salary, the first month of which he claimed at once in anticipation.

The Bedouin character is not however formed for servitude.

This powerful fellow, who ate sufficient for six, could never be got to do regularly the work of a child, and as I did not want to keep him as a mere dummy, about a week after, in a fit of anger at his idleness, I sent word to him, that he must either work like the other servants, or leave the vessel instant.

As he however shewed little inclination to take notice of my warning, I ordered him positively to leave, which to my surprise he refused to do, so that I was obliged to give instructions to the Kawass, if he did not quit in five minutes time, to have him forcibly ejected from the boat, for which a dozen men would certainly have been required.

A Turkish *employé*, and follower<sup>1</sup> of his Highness, inspires, however, so great a terror in the minds of the Arabs, that the giant Ali, immediately yielded.

I looked, of course, upon the month's wages I had paid him in anticipation as lost, but was considerably surprised, on hearing the next morning from my dragoman, that the Bedouin had, conscientiously, returned him three-fourths of the money received, and had only kept his wages for the week he had been in service.

This trait, seems to me, deserving of note; although it will scarcely be admired by the serving classes in Europe, from the privy counsellor, down to the shoe-black.

After a few hours' journey, which took us continually over sand hills, covered with small flat stones, that often resemble those, which the credulous ancients took for the petrified peas

and beans of the workmen at the Pyramids—we reached the ruins of the Pyramids of Abusir, which are considerably smaller than those of Dshiseh, and of little interest.

A league and a half further on stand those of Sakkara—the largest and most central of which, has, as I have already stated, been opened by General Minutoli. Here Msarra, who, until now, had trotted on his donkey half asleep and half awake, got into his element, like a fish into the water—but, as I do not mean to enter on this subject here, I must request the reader, to look for the interesting chapter in which it is treated in a most instructive and entertaining manner, in the General's own excellent description.

Not far from this Pyramid, there are some finer sarcophagi, than those we had seen near Dshiseh; and, close by them, are some inexhaustible catacombs of Ibis—also, a regular mob of mummies.

For a small gratuity, we saw a few of these ordinary mummies dug out intact before our eyes. The various coloured faces on the rough heads, although not works of art, seemed to me, full of expression; and there was a good deal of coquetry in the female physiognomy. We had two opened which, evidently, contained

only common persons; and found nothing in them, but linen scorched by the *mastic* used, and bones literally changed to wood.

The more remote Pyramids of Dashfur, we contented ourselves with contemplating at a distance, and now turned again towards the Nile; to the beautiful vale and extensive palm forest of Old Memphis.

On entering this wood, the whole scene bears a striking likeness to our sombre northern fur-tree heaths. The trees, with their long bare trunks and small crowns, are nearly all of the same shape and colour; the soil is uniformly sterile sand, with a sprinkling of grass here and there; and, to complete the picture, you see, occasionally, large ponds of muddy water half dried up, resembling those which are so frequent in the Mark and Lausitz.

The aspect would, consequently, be here, as melancholy as it is with us, were it not bordered closely by the most fertile plantations, covered with the richest verdure, and bearing a hundred different sorts of fruits; and, did not the broad Nile flow at a short distance, in all its proud magnificence. Added to which, ancient ruins fill the wood in different places; and, in a recess close by the road, lies the

beautiful colossus of the great Rhamses, (Sesostris) which is in a state of complete preservation from the head, down to the waist, and only partly so as regards the remainder; this is, probably, the one, which formerly stood in the *Dromos*, of the Temple of Vulcan; and, with the exception of Jesumbul, is the only statue of that Egyptian hero, whose face has remained perfect.

Mr. Cavillia was the first who discovered this colossus, and presented it to the English Vice-Consul at Alexandria; for, formerly, every stranger, who discovered any antiquity here, thought himself justified in considering it as his property, just as wreckers regard the goods of the wrecked.

I hear, that the Vice-Consul intends having the head sawn off, and selling it to the British Museum, in order to be placed along side Lord Elgin's spoils. Should this report be true, I trust, that the Viceroy, who thank God, need not as yet, like so many other princes, consider himself the slave of English plenipotentiaries, will prevent such a vandalism.

It would, at least, shew great weakness on his part, if he did not do so—unless he be really convinced of the correctness of that

one of the first officers of the Euphrates Expedition (*du reste*, a man of great energy, and considerable talent), said lately, with truly English politeness and self-esteem, to the Governor of Adana, on the latter shewing him the newly erected fortifications of that place.

“ *Mon cher, avec un Kurbatsch (riding-whip) et dix mille Anglais, je vous chassrai facilement avec honte l'armée d'Ibrahim d'ici à travers la Syrie et l'Egypt jusqu'au Sennaar.*”

To tell truths like this, in people's faces, is rather too much.

Amidst the ruins which lie scattered about in the woods, I saw much that is worthy of mention, but a great deal more must be buried under ground beneath the numerous sand hills—for already, in Strabo's time, the avenue of Sphinxes, which, on the side of the lake, that surrounded the whole city, led to the Temple of Serapis, was half buried in the sand of the desert.

After riding over narrow dykes, which had been rendered necessary by the inundations of the Nile, and which are carried on in serpentine lines, similar to the walks in a maze, in order to form a better resistance to the flood; we reached at dusk, the river, where, as if by appointment, our boats had just arrived from

Cairo, having been detained on the way by contrary winds.

We gladly hastened on board; Ajiame received me with an humble kiss of the hand, which I, in vain, tried to withdraw, and I discovered with pleasure, by the exemplary cleanliness, and neat arrangement of my little water palace, that the very pearl of slaves had fallen to my lot.

Without loss of time, we immediately set sail, and floated on the blue waves towards the south, and soon passed Hatfeh—formerly sacred to the Aphroidite—whilst a sweet African night breathed its soft, and balmy breezes around us.

At sun-rise, we passed the Canal of Joseph, (also the work of Jussuf, Sal-Eddin, and not of the beloved of Potiphar's wife), and perceived in the vague distance, *the last of the Egyptian Pyramids* near the Nile, that of Maidua, overlooking the desert, and, in the reflection of the morning sun, looking like a golden coronet. Thus was commenced the great journey, which was to take me further and further, and was to begin more tragically than I had anticipated.



## CHAPTER II.

JOURNEY ON THE NILE, TO THE CAPITAL OF  
UPPER EGYPT.

THE last days of February, were devoted to interior and domestic arrangements; the more so, as we had determined, on account of the advanced season, to stop as little as possible on our way up, and to make up for it on our return, by greater ease and comfort; although this was contrary to my usual rule, never to put off till the morrow, what can be done to day. But every rule has its exceptions, as all but pedants will be disposed to acknowledge.

I therefore now studied, instead of antiquities, the character of the young Ajame, which daily appeared to me under a more interesting light. First I discovered, with surprise, that she possessed an ethereal dislike to meat, and never touched it. An orange, some rice, milk, and bread, morning and evening, are the only things she will take, and after this delicate meal she never fails to perform a careful ablution of her face and hands, which I found by peeping through the curtain, and which I certainly never had expected to see, and her ivory teeth are studiously cleaned and polished in a manner worthy of an English woman, although only with a root, which the Abyssinians employ for that purpose. Probably it is owing to these excellent physical habits, to which belongs also a daily morning and evening bath, added to the above mentioned frugal diet, that I never found in a female such a complete absence of human *desagremens*, as in this delicious savage, to whom I expected to teach manners, but whom I found, in some things, much more advanced than we Europeans are ourselves. The same delicacy, the same decency and grace with which she treated her body I found also in the remainder of her conduct. A few

few weeks later—I must not omit mentioning this—she however betrayed clearly the tendencies of the slave (I might add of the woman) for my too flattering treatment of her soon made her overbearing and capricious. Besides the pretty child found it tedious, and not unjustly so, to have no one to talk to, as neither myself nor any one else understood her language, nor was it over amusing to be always locked in according to Turkish fashion, and only allowed to take, in the evening, a quarter of an hour's walk on shore, closely veiled. All this was not my fault, and with the best intentions in the world could not be altered; nevertheless she vented her disappointment upon me, and with all the native gentleness of her character, became at last, like a spoiled lap dog, so insupportably petulant, arbitrary and changeable, that I began to apprehend much trouble from her. All human beings have, however, a good deal of the animal about them; and savages of course more than others. This I took into consideration, and determined, in consequence, to counteract by effectual means the growing caprices, misconduct and rebellion of my little child of nature. After the first violent scene of the kind, in which in her anger she had thrown overboard

a present she had lately received from me, I began by not taking the slightest notice of her for hours, and on her retiring the next morning in the same sulky mood, into a small bath room lined with tin, (in this climate a regular Venetian tin chamber) in which she at the same time kept her things and performed her toilet, I very coolly locked the door of it and let her remain in this prison for about twenty four hours, during which the necessary food was given to her through the window, but was always returned untouched. This obstinacy coupled with an uninterrupted silence, might perhaps have alarmed me, did I not know too well the dear and charming sex, which always yields to necessity at the right time. During the night I repeatedly heard her sobbing violently, a sign of approaching submission, which I however did not appear to remark — until after sun-rise her tiny silver voice was heard, begging in the most touching manner in the Abyssinian language, to be released from her imprisonment, which I understood very well from the sense, although I could only catch a few of the words, which I had already managed to learn from her. I played the hard-hearted tyrant a little longer, and then allowed myself to be overcome and

withdrew the bolt. Lovely in her tears, and as fascinatingly attired as she could make herself, the prisoner cautiously put her beautiful bare foot on the carpet, followed slowly with the other, and flinging herself on the floor, pressed her forehead against my feet.

I had the greatest trouble in the world not to spoil her again immediately, but I remained firm, played only the part of the mentor, and from that moment she has always been gentle, good, and obedient; and as we have formed for ourselves a distinct language, I need scarcely fear a relapse. I even may venture to believe, without presumption, that she is now really attached to me with a sincere and tender feeling, (in all due honor, be it clearly understood,) which shows the primitive nature of that class of human beings, who love quickly and faithfully those who treat them with kindness, coupled with firmness; whilst they entertain a deadly hatred to those who only treat them brutally like unthinking animals. It is a strange thing, that the Turks here are generally kind masters to their male black slaves, and on the other hand treat the female ones with the greatest rudeness and contempt, although the poor girls are always compelled to serve for the gratification of their

lust—perhaps the most degrading and revolting of all situations to a female mind. It is, therefore, not at all uncommon in those countries, that Turks, especially of the lower order, die by the hands of their slaves. I speak of *slaves*, not of legitimate wives, who in the East, as with us, exercise no small sway over their lords, although the laws and customs of the country restrict their personal liberty.

During this pleasant interval, the first of March, to me always a dark emissary of evil, cast a cloud over our harmless joys. It was towards noon, and I was just engaged in writing, when a violent breeze, which agitated the waters of the Nile like the waves of the sea, imparted such a rocking motion to the boat, that I was obliged to pack up again, and replace in the portfolio the papers I had spread out before me.

I threw myself on my bed and asked for my pipe, the Oriental *consolation* for every sort of trouble. This belonged to the department of my Greek page, and as he was in the other boat, the Dragoman called out to him, to bring over the Tshibuck immediately.

A few minutes afterwards I heard an outcry on deck, and saw from the window of my cabin, three or four Arabs throwing

themselves head foremost into the river, to dive after a red Tarbush, which danced before them on the waves.

I was wondering, why, in such weather, they should take so much trouble about such a thing, and looked on with indifference at their efforts to catch it, when Ackermann entered with a very pale face, and told me, that the young page had disappeared from the boat in a most unaccountable manner, that only his Tarbush had come up again on the surface, but that he himself was not to be seen. Imagine the terror, of all at such an appalling event !

By the promise of a handsome reward I immediately induced some more of the Arabs to seek for the lost boy in the waves, had the boats turned round, and cruised about with them for hours—but all was in vain. No one ever again beheld the slightest trace of that beautiful boy, not once did he re-appear above the surface, and even his Tarbush was carried away with such rapidity by wind and tide, that the most expert swimmers could not reach it. The circumstance of my pipe, together with a valuable amber mouth-piece, which he always brought with it in a leaden canister, being also missing, shewed that being about

complying with the order given him, he must have missed his footing on stepping from one bark into the other, (for they had been chained together on account of the bad weather,) and thus suddenly falling into the river, was swallowed by the waves, before he could call out for assistance. What a melancholy event ; and how long and deeply have I mourned over the poor boy, who was so tragically and needlessly doomed to an early grave !

The callousness displayed by our sailors during this heart rending occurrence was most remarkable. Our Rais (ship's captain) seemed even to experience a superstitious satisfaction at it.

“ Now the journey will be prosperous,” he said with a mysterious air to my Dragoman, “ for the Nile has taken its victim in anticipation. To try to save that—is always a useless attempt !”

It was only towards evening, when all hope of recovering the body was gone, that I continued my journey with a heavy heart. We were then before Beni-Suef, where I left my depositions with the Governor, with all necessary directions for further search, as well as for the interment of the body, should it be found, and a request to inform me as speedily as possible of what had happened. But up to this day,



when I, in the kingdom of Sennaar, pen this chapter of my journey ; I have not been able to obtain any further intelligence about this unfortunate youth, to whom I was much attached, and who was deserving of it in every respect.

Beni-Suef, like almost all Egyptian towns, built of mud houses, is a wretched looking place. Being, however, on the spot, I made a hasty inspection of it's remarkable objects. First of all ranks the grammar school, which contains ninety six children, who are very well kept ; I saw them at their meals, which after all, even in schools, is one of the essentials, and found here too the physical food unexceptionable ; of the mental I could not judge, especially, as the pupils had on that day a holiday. In the province El Tajum, there are four schools founded by Mehemet Ali. A large cotton spinning establishment, which I afterwards visited, resembled in all respects those previously described, and seemed to be in quite as good order and active operation.

The large cavalry barracks for two full regiments, I found almost empty, as the horses were all on the *bersim* ; they were then for the most part inhabited by military artizans,

for the officers and privates had removed to some extensive barracks which had been lately built for them, close by, and surrounding a large square for exercising.

I visited the latter, and found even the lodgings of the superior officers very little different from the so much inveighed against houses of the Fellahs, simply because in this manner they are most suitable to the climate, being warm in winter and cool in summer. A fine avenue of old mimosa trees, forms a shady walk from the barracks to the Nile.

At nightfall I re-embarked. In the morning we overtook, in the midst of a charming landscape, the boat of a French traveller, a Count Mercy d'Argenteau, as I understood, who escorted a lovely country-woman of his, whom we saw on the deck in an elegant costume deeply engaged in reading. She did not perhaps find the country to her taste, for the Count turned back here.

It must be acknowledged, that the journey on the Nile soon becomes wearisome, on account of its great monotony. I am sure, that on being suddenly transported from Europe to this country, one would scarcely find here a spot which would not leave a

romantic impression upon him from its singularity, but *toujours perdrix* soon becomes tiresome, and after several months of a never-varying aspect one often longs heartily for something looking like one's own country, even though it be of the most modest description. Besides which in several places the burning sun already begins to wither up the hitherto beautiful green of the fields, and in a few weeks, instead of that rich carpet, nothing but a cover of grey dust will be visible. But before then I hope to have advanced further into a region where other rules predominate. Altogether in the present low state of the Nile, little is seen of the adjoining country, as long as we remain in the boat. When we land, however, we are always surprised by the extraordinary fertility of the soil, which often extends over boundless plains far into the country. But in several places the desert approaches close to the river and destroys this blessing, because for centuries, canals have been neglected here, and Mehemet Ali cannot improve everything.

During the fourth, fifth, and sixth of March, the first sweep of the burning Khamsin, which made its appearance this year, at a particularly early period, kept us prisoners close to

a tobacco-field, where neither tree nor bush affords the least shelter.

Although the wind, during this phenomenon, seems to come from a furnace, heats the blood, and gives, by the continual clouds of dust which penetrate every where, to the eyes a red and inflamed appearance, I nevertheless cannot say that I found the effect so insufferable as it has been described. I felt in excellent health during its continuance, and even perceived an increase of appetite. It is only the dust which is irksome. The whole atmosphere becomes so completely filled with it, that one cannot see at a distance of fifty, and frequently at ten feet; this fine dust penetrates into every interstice, however well closed up, and notwithstanding the most careful cleansing, after a few hours everything is again thickly covered with it. Mouth, nose, and eyes are always filled with it; luckily, however, we had, on this occasion, water closely at hand, if not as a remedy, at least as a palliative.

The sailors were still less affected by the Khamsin than ourselves. They thanked heaven that it gave them a little relaxation from their work, and sang, played, and danced, day and night. It is a common thing with them, to

sit round in a circle, on their crossed legs, and to sing for hours together, the same three or four words *unisono*, whilst one of them, a kind of leader, introduces, occasionally, another stanza with a different air, upon which the others chimed on again with the old chaunt.

One night six of these people, led on by a half crazy saint among them, to whom they paid great honour, tried the dance of the howling Dervishes, and this scene had something so awful in it, that I shall certainly never forget it. Fancy a burning atmosphere, with fierce gusts of wind, driving before them huge clouds of dust, which, rising in all directions like a fog, only admitted, at intervals, the pale light of the stars; with difficulty one discerns in the wilderness the dark shores of the Nile, on which our vessels are anchored. On the deck of one of them you perceive indistinctly, in the obscurity, like shadows rocking to and fro, six figures wrapped in dark clothes, collected in a circle round a completely naked man (the Saint) who sings, in a plaintive voice, several, by no means inharmonious, but exceedingly, melancholy strains, whilst those who constitute the circle, jumping up and bowing again to the ground in regularly measured time, call out incessantly the word

*Ajuhm*, in a low, hoarse, and indescribable voice, resembling the barking of some infernal monster, till at last, they one after the other, sink down exhausted, in a sort of swoon, the dance often ending, as I have been told, in a stroke of apoplexy.

But this dance is one of great sanctity, and whoever loses his life in it, is considered a happy martyr. To me this ceremony had rather the effect of a frightful incantation of evil spirits, or an infernal dance of the Demons themselves. The fearful influence of the spectacle seemed also to affect my Spartan dog, Susannis, for even this brave champion *sans peur et sans reproche* took, at once, refuge in a corner of the boat, and, with eyes intently fixed on the dancers, did not cease to the last to accompany the dreadful *ajuhm* with a howling almost as frightful.

On the night of the seventh, the Khamsin suddenly changed to a gale from the North, and although that direction was perfectly favourable to our journey, we dare not proceed in the darkness, and so close in the vicinity of the dangerous cliffs of the bird promontory (Dshebel Itter) which touches closely on the Nile on the Arabian side. It was only at a later period of the morning, when the violence

of the wind had somewhat abated, that we could fly on its wings.

From this point we found the banks of the river much more interesting, the scenery being varied in its character, and its vegetation had also a very different appearance, and although the neighbouring hills only consisted of yellow sand or hard sandstone, they had a very picturesque appearance, from their original shapes. Besides for the reasons before stated, and in order to profit as much as possible by the favourable wind, we heroically left behind us all ruins and other sights, and this rapid sailing past so many towns, villages, cliffs, catacombs, ancient temples, palmgroves, and sugar plantations, the latter of which have a sort of apple-green colour, had its peculiar charms.

At the end of this bird promontory, stands a Koptic monastery. To our surprise we saw a troop of monks, ten in number, rush out from it, throw themselves, rather than climb, down the rocky precipices, jump into the violently agitated waters, and follow, like fishes, up the stream, our little barks, which, as we in mercy to them stopped, they happily reached, after a quarter of an hour's immense efforts; and all this in order to obtain a donation of two *karieh* (five francs)!

Minieh with a palace belonging to the Viceroy, and another, which is far more conspicuous, belonging to the Governor, presents an imposing picture on the left shore of the river and its environs, which are here lively and pleasing on every side. We saw them moreover to advantage, in the roseate rays of a tropical sun, after having been enveloped as it were, in a thick curtain of grey fog during the whole day. This fog was accompanied by a sudden change of the weather, for the scorching heat of the *khamsin* was immediately followed by a degree of cold, so severe as to oblige me to put on some woollen clothing and my great coat.

On the 8th of March the wind abated, and we were induced to disembark at Baramour, where the only sugar manufactory in the country is situated; the produce is sold at three times the price paid for *foreign* sugar at Kahira.

The buildings of this manufactory are remarkable, for their site is, unfortunately, exactly intermediate between the ruins of Hermopolis and Antinoe, and thus the celebrated porticos of these two towns, which were in good preservation, and before one of which Denon fell in ecstasy on his knees, were a



short time ago blown down with powder, that the stones might be used for this sugar refinery. The inexhaustible quarries are certainly at a very short distance from this spot, but they would have given a *little* more trouble. This barbarism must be placed to the score of Turkish education and to the former ignorance of the Viceroy; yes, generations will have to pass away before the natives will be able to appreciate the artistic value of their antiquities, in spite of all those flattering articles in the newspapers which uphold the contrary.

The sugar factory was shewn us by a very intelligent Frenchman, who had been sent there a few months before, to improve on the existing regulations and system of working; a duty which he hopes to have performed by the end of a few weeks. He receives, as remuneration for his trouble, thirty thousand francs, besides having his travelling expenses paid and a house rent free. Formerly the sugar was first prepared in a raw, brown state, by the Fellahs in their own houses, after which it was twice, sometimes three or four times refined in this factory. One cwt of sugar, four times refined, costs here one thousand and fifty piastres, whilst the Fellahs only receive fifty piastres for one cwt. of the raw produce. This would

yield, certainly, a very good profit, if purchasers were to be found. The Frenchman proposes, for the future (and he has proved the great advantage of his scheme) not to have any more sugar prepared by the Fellahs, but to get it at once from the cane and then to refine it by a steam apparatus; by which proceeding he maintains that the Viceroy will soon be able to furnish sugar at a cheaper rate than that at which it can be imported from Europe.

In this way he would secure the whole consumption of the country, and consequently an immense profit.

The director has offered to take the responsibility of the enterprise upon himself, and has offered a very high rental, but this has been rejected together with several other projects, by means of which he endeavoured to supersede the "*ineptia*" of his Egyptian assistants, of whom he complained bitterly—observing that the Viceroy was gradually shewing greater disinclination to employ Europeans, in the vain idea that he no longer needed them. I repeat his words because they quite agree with the hints I threw out on a former occasion. The jealousy the Turks feel towards the Europeans, and their endeavours to remove

them by asserting that they had now learned all that was necessary, daily gain ground at the Egyptian court, and have more influence with Ibrahim than with Mehemet Ali; but even the latter, who certainly has been frequently and most grossly deceived by Europeans, begins at last to feel a degree of animosity towards them, and allows himself, occasionally, to be persuaded that he can do without them, though not always to his interest. For the time has not yet come, and great and worthy of admiration as Mehemet Ali is, he would never have executed his plans without the aid of Europeans, and the duration of that which has been done, would be greatly endangered, in all probability, without their assistance.

In the travelling journal of M. Cadalve, in which he seizes on every opportunity of disparaging the Viceroy, there is a totally false account of this sugar factory for the same laudable purpose. The author contends, "that the inferiority in quality of this sugar, (its cause was the ignorance of the former director and builder,) is owing to Mehemet Ali's want of consistency; who, although in many instances he totally disregards the prejudices of his faith, has positively and in the most unaccountable manner prohibited the use of blood in

refining the sugar, not knowing that it is indispensable to obtain good produce." In this assertion there is nothing but error; for in *the first place*, the Viceroy never dreamt of troubling himself about details, but the Mahomedan labourers certainly were very averse, and even made some objections to the use of blood, a prejudice in which the director was willing to humour them; and in *the second place*, (another error of M. Cadalve) blood is *by no means* indispensable in sugar refining.

The present director prefers the albumen of eggs for this purpose, and would even use it in preference in Europe, if it were possible to obtain a sufficient quantity of eggs for the purpose, and at the same price as here, where blood is dearer and less serviceable.

As trivial as the matter is, I could not pass it over without a word, as it is a fair specimen, in shallowness and animosity, of a number of similar attacks with which the book, which is not otherwise without merit, is filled.

On the 9th of March, we had in view half the day, the picturesque range of mountains of Abulfeda to the East, and on our side, they were adorned with many beautiful catacombs and a remarkable Santon-temple.

which crowning the highest point of a white rock, resembled an image on an iced cake. Opposite to this, a yellow sand-hill in the form of a regular pyramid, rose from the middle of the desert,

From Minieh the balanced buckets of the Sakis are but rarely seen in motion on the shores driven by oxen, for naked fellahs now take their place, and the Sakis are constructed of a smaller size to suit their stature.

Numerous herds of buffaloes were seen grazing by the side of the river, and dozens of pelicans stood ranged in order, with great gravity, on the many islands of sand.

The Nile was also enlivened by many other aquatic birds, and we shot a few wild geese, which were of good flavour, but difficult of approach.

Towards evening we arrived Monfalut, a miserable and extensive, straggling place, with several very neat mosques, which had been a short time before partially destroyed by the river. The environs are charming. Both ranges of mountains from Arabia and Sybia appear, when viewed from the town, to form an uninterrupted chain of blue mountainous walls around it, while the

interior of the circle constitutes a luxuriant green carpet intersected by the Nile.

I climbed the ruins of a house, in company with the doctor, to enjoy the beautiful prospect in greater perfection, but we were forced to beat a very precipitate retreat, when the walls, undermined by the water, began to rock with our weight, as if shaken by an earthquake.

We had, however, anxiously observed the minarets of Sicef, on the roseate horizon of this smiling panorama, a view doubly welcome to us, as we were looking forward to this town as a very desirable place of rest, and hoped yet to met the Viceroy at Siut.

By land it is only a few leagues distant from Monfalut, but by water we took the greater part of the following day, in accomplishing this short distance, on account of the numerous windings of the river, and owing to the contrary winds that prevailed.

On this occasion I may, perhaps be allowed a remark which experience on every occasion subsequently corroborated: that a traveller, who is neither weak in constitution, nor straightened in his conomical arrangements, will do much better both as regards his own amusement, and the acquirement of a more

intimate acquaintance with the country, to proceed at once from Alexandria, the whole distance he intends travelling by land, but to return by the Nile.

An exception to this rule must however be made in the summer months, when almost the whole of Egypt appears like a grey field of sand.

At every other period the traveller will in this way, proceed first, with greater rapidity, an advantage outweighing a little additional fatigue, secondly, he will enjoy far greater change of scenery, thirdly, he will have to dread fewer attacks of illness, and fourthly, he will profit ten times more by his journey, than would be possible in following the usual routine of ordinary travellers.

My first business on arriving at Siut, which is situate at a distance of two miles from the Nile, at the present stand of the water, was before leaving the bark to announce my arrival to Mehemet Ali.

Shortly after this Artim Bey made his appearance, followed by the horses and servants, to escort me at once into his Highness the Viceroy's presence, who graciously sent me word, "that his intention had been to leave Siat in a few hours, but as I had at arrived

last, he would on my account remain there that day, and the morrow."

I really was much later in my arrival than I had originally intended to be, and his Highness's friendly message appeared to me, on that account, the more generous and gracious. The evening was superb, and rendered the short distance to Siut a glorious spectacle: for the verdure was here quite fresh, and surrounded with various shades, three sides of the capital of Upper Egypt, while the blanched Lybian chain of mountains mysteriously defined by the dark cycle of immeasurable catacombs extends along the fourth side behind the turrets and mosques, which glistened cheerfully in the golden rays of the setting sun.

The Viceroy had taken up his residence in a large palace with white washed walls, in the outskirts of the town. In the spacious court, I found a company of soldiers in green uniform drawn up to receive me, who, on my entrance, saluted me with noisy music. I can say, that his Highness reception, was not only polite, as usual, but truly cordial. I found him in a very good humour; and, the fatiguing journey by land from Kahira--during which, the old man of seventy, had ridden from



eight to ten hours daily, on horseback — did not appear to have fatigued him in the least, for he looked healthier and stronger than ever.

“What makes me so cheerful,” he replied, to my expressions of these sentiments; “is the flourishing state in which I found the province, in which I have, for the last two years, employed eighty-five thousand men for three months in the year, in the repair of the neglected dams and canals, an occupation for which, moreover, thirty-two millions of bricks, dried in the sun, are annually made and used.”

This labour continued twice as long he hoped would suffice, to complete the irrigation of the whole of Upper Egypt, so that no portion of it would remain uncultivated, as had, unfortunately, been the case in many parts.

He had, lastly, succeeded in enabling the inhabitants to make purchases of large quantities of cattle from Sennaar—an enterprise they would not engage in at first, on account of its novelty — as is the case with all innovations, notwithstanding the immense profit thence accruing.

He had, however, adopted the plan of proceeding with a good example, and had made

large purchases himself, and then lent to any solid speculator, the sum required for the purchase without interest, and thus the affair was now in train.

“ In Sennaar,” he added, “ cattle is so abundant, that a camel costs scarcely four Spanish dollars, an ox two, and a sheep, only four piastres, (one franc.) There, capital alone is wanting; and, so severely is the want felt that I have only lately commenced accustoming the inhabitants to the use of money, for, until now, they were only acquainted with barter. Here, on the other hand, cattle breeding is unknown—for little ground is left for pasturage, as the larger quantity is cultivated at a greater profit as arable land; but, the working of the Sakis, rendered an immense number of cattle indispensable; and, when further improvements are made, they will become even more necessary. By the trade I have commenced, both parties will, therefore, be gainers; and, if God favours us, their prosperity will increase with giant strides.”

In the course of my journey, I afterwards frequently met transports of large droves—which, certainly, have to contend with great difficulties on account of the forage, with

which they have to be supplied on the road. All the cattle were as lean as ghosts, but of very excellent breed, and powerful build.

From this administrative conversation, we came to speak of Europe, its increasing inventions, and, more especially its luxuries,—many of which are here unknown.

“I know all that,” the Viceroy observed, with a smile; “and not only turn my attention to machinery, but to the good things of this world. Nothing of the kind appears in London or Paris, of which I do not receive specimens instantly.”

“But, unfortunately, no one sees them,” I replied, (for we were, on this occasion, alone), “because they remain buried in your Highness’s Harem.”

“Yes,” Mehemet Ali answered, “the times will not allow us to progress as rapidly as you wish. After my time, many prejudices will fall to the ground, although the wisest even find a great difficulty in shaking them off,—and no mortal, perhaps, can quite free himself from the effects of early education and association.”

I cordially complimented him, on the many prejudices he himself, had, nevertheless, overcome; and told him, that the present genera-

tion must be gratefully attached to him, for the benefits which had already arisen from his high mindedness.

His answer was original and sincere, and shewed a clear knowledge of mankind.

“The father,” he replied, “leaves his child—why? from selfishness. He sees in it *himself*—his own line continued; the child comes from him, belongs to him; and he hopes it will, one day, be his support, under the infirmities of age. The child loves its father, because it expects its maintenance, and every benefit in life from him, and an inheritance after his death. Master and servant, sovereign and subject, all reason alike—*self-interest* is at the base of all human relations, and, if cleverly worked, furnishes us with *good masters and good servants*.”

“It is unfortunate,” I interposed, “that so few of us know our true interest, and in this respect I mostly admire your Highness’s energy, which will never allow you to be deterred in your beneficial plans by fraud or stupidity.”

“It is true,” he said, “I have fought many a hard battle, but have, nevertheless, attached myself with true passion to my country by adoption. I never had peace or rest, it always

appeared to me like a naked, helpless child, which had been lying for centuries in lethargy, to whom I alone must be at once, father and mother, master and servant, tutor and judge, and frequently I have said to myself during my sleepless nights, ‘will *one* Mehemet Ali suffice to feed the child, to clothe it, to give it understanding, and to bring it to maturity?’ At present, I am still uncertain about it, but perhaps God, to whom I already owe so much, and at whose disposal I have ever left all, will grant me this favour in spite of all impediments.”

Mehemet Ali is totally unknown in Europe; and even here is not wholly understood, so that I feel convinced that many of my readers will take this and a part of the following for a romance of my own invention. I must beg those, however, to consider that Artim Bey is still living, a man so decidedly European in education, that he would never be taken for a Turk, and he could convict me of falsehood if I do not speak the truth. I may err in a few immaterial words and expressions, but never in the main point, as I always took the opportunity of the first moment of leisure to write down Mehemet Ali’s words, and I did this because I am of opinion that the sayings of

great men, even on slight points, must always be of considerable interest to men of education.

In how far these expressions are the true effusions of the heart, or set speeches pre-arranged, for the purpose, I must leave to the discrimination of the reader to detect; they will at least furnish him with matter for reflection.

The Viceroy closed our conversation for the day with the observation "that all nations are capable of being great, all armies capable of being victorious, if they can only find a man who understands how to lead them on the road."

The next morning he invited me to a *déjeuné à la fourchette*. After the Turkish dinner I had seen and partaken of on a former occasion, at Gizeh, I was not a little astonished to find his Highness served in the European fashion, and to see him eat with all the eloquence of an English dandy. I was however, informed that the Viceroy for many years has followed the European customs in this respect, in private, and only adheres to the national customs on public occasions.

The scene remained so far Turkish, that his Highness and myself, alone sat at the table,

whilst the court remained stationed around us, but did not participate in the breakfast.

The Viceroy was so merry that he addressed me himself in French, and pronounced the few words he spoke quite correctly. He then said with much *nâivété* and grace :

“ I have learned to eat in the European fashion, but I do not understand carving yet, so you shall give me a lesson by taking this business on yourself.”

I commenced with a *dindon aux truffes*, which I flatter myself I carved according to art.

Whilst we were demolishing it there was no lack of excellent *Chateau Margeaux*, the only wine his Highness drinks, and the only wine served at his table.

I must here mention a circumstance related to me by the Governor of Lint, as an instance of delicate attention and gallantry almost incredible in a Turk and so great a man. When the Viceroy invited me to breakfast, he ordered an arm-chair like his own to be placed for me. In the whole town not one could be found, nor could anything be obtained but plain straw chairs. When this was reported to him he ordered his arm-chair to be removed and two similar straw chairs to be placed at the table.

Trivial as the circumstance is in itself, this trait is characteristic of Mehemet Ali.

I profitted by the good humour of my distinguished host, to beg permission to follow him, not only by water, but for a few days on his journey of inspection into the interior of the country, a request he very willingly granted. The conversation then turned on various subjects ; but we could only touch on very general and ordinary topics before so many persons ; after dinner, however, when we were alone, the conversation gradually became more confidential, and it may be imagined how instructive it was for me to hear Mehemet Ali express his sentiments on his own political relations and the interests and opinions of the European Cabinets, which he had very accurately conceived, with sincerity and warmth.

It would be indiscreet to publish the details in this book, but I may say that I could not sufficiently admire the simplicity and dignity of his expressions, and the correctness of his views, as far as I was able to judge of them.

From all he said it was clearly manifest that he is convinced that all he has done and called into life cannot be maintained as long as the key stone is wanting in the edifice, as long as the deed is not sanctified by the name,



in short, as long as his sovereignty *de facto* in not acknowledged *de jure*—and further, how much he desires, even under these circumstances, peace, security and tranquillity, without exorbitant plans of aggrandisement ; but if it be inevitable, he by no means dreads war as a last resource, and will never willingly and quietly give up one village of his present possessions.

Sacrifices of money are a different affair, and I believe he would make them to a large extent, if by so doing he could remove an anomaly, the existence of which threatens the peace of the East and West, and is both an impediment to the beneficial plans of the Viceroy for those countries he governs, and paralyses the Sultan in similar endeavours.

After having found an opportunity of advancing the interests of several friends, I was fortunate enough to succeed in obtaining for Clot Bey the removal of the *école de médecine*, which had been always decidedly refused, from Abu Zabel to Kahira, (an undertaking estimated at a cost of several hundred thousands), although the Viceroy at first opposed my intercession with some degree of sensitiveness.

I now took my leave of his Highness, to visit the town, and take a ride in the environs. Siut offers nothing very remarkable, beyond

a well furnished bazaar, and a mosque, built by the notorious Defterdar; a beautiful marble bath is attached to the latter, and its revenues contribute towards the support of the mosque, according to a very general and very beautiful custom in the East, of combining always something useful with religious buildings.

The Viceroy had formerly established one of his largest and most expensive factories at Siut, but it was burnt by the fanatic inhabitants.

He only punished the town, by not recreating the destroyed edifice, and by removing the factory to a different place.

The Mamelukes, as it is well known, when driven from Upper Egypt, held a position for a considerable time at Siut, and the churchyard where they are buried resembles a small town, with its superb monuments close to the Necropolis of the Egyptians, who had thousands of years before hollowed out the rocks above like the cells of a bee-hive. These graves of the Mamelukes, like those of their ancient predecessors, begin at the margin of green meadows, and terminate in the sand of the endless desert.

I deferred my visit to the Necropolis for my return, but was not deterred by the heat from

galloping a good distance into the desert on the Viceroy's excellent horse, and then climbing a barren rock of the Lybian chain of mountains to obtain a more extensive view of the charming valley of the Nile towards the East.

The unpleasant fog rising during the day, however, only allowed me to fulfil my purpose imperfectly.

On my return I enjoyed a truly national sight, I saw eight gigantic, naked negroes extricating a buffalo, which had stuck in the mud, and had already sunk as far as the neck, and carry him, literally speaking, on their shoulders, over to the dry land.

## CHAPTER III.

## JOURNEY BY LAND WITH THE VICEROY.

SUFFERING from a painful head-ache, I was lying in a feverish and restless state in bed, when before sunrise repeated salvos of cannon announced the departure of his Highness ; and at the same time a Kawass made his appearance to inform me, on the part of the Viceroy, that he would await me at the station where he breakfasted, but to enable me to follow him the more rapidly, he had sent me two of his own candiote mules.

Being, however, obliged to wait the abatement of the fever, I could not follow till eight o'clock ; unpleasant as this unseemly delay was to me.

My road led me for about three German miles through a beautiful meadow, which for fertility and excellent cultivation would scarcely find its equal in Europe.

On the immeasurable surface which extended between the two chains of mountains, not the smallest spot seemed to have remained uncultivated, in the same manner as in Malta and Gozo, only with this difference, that in those places a stony soil must be cultivated with great labour, whilst here the most luxuriant crop requires throughout only the trouble of sowing.

All the different kinds of fruits were to be seen in the greatest perfection; they were already gathering the flax, but the barley had yet a fortnight to ripen.

The Bersim (a kind of fat clover), was for the most part already mowed, and the ripe green peas and beans which I tasted, I found to be as sweet and palatable as on the fertile lands of Franconia.

On the fields, which were lying fallow, cattle of all kind were to be seen grazing, such as buffalos, horses, camels, sheep, and goats, all well fed, of strong build, and good breed.

A number of villages were constantly in

view, and formed, with their surrounding groups of palm trees, single dark *bosquets* in the light green of the plains, where, only at intervals in the distance, the mirror-like surface of the Nile was lighted up by the rays of the sun.

It was a picture at once rich, varied, and brilliant; but the pain I suffered was too intense for me to derive much pleasure from the beauties of nature, and I was therefore very glad to observe, near one of the larger villages, the long line of the Viceroy's tents, with his suite in gaudy and picturesque oriental costume, consisting of more than three hundred men, and above five hundred cattle.

Mehemet Ali had, with much kindness, postponed his usual breakfast hour, until he despaired of my arrival, and was now enjoying his *siesta*.

I found a very elegant tent, partitioned into several apartments, ready for my reception, into which I was conducted by Artim Bey and M. Gaetani, his Highness's physician in ordinary, a Spaniard by birth, who offered me his medical assistance.

I, however, hastened to lie down, knowing well the remedies against my hereditary com-

plaint, and declining both kitchen and dispensary. Four hours sound sleep perfectly restored me.

The travelling arrangements of the Viceroy are excellent. I have already mentioned that a suite of about three hundred men (amongst whom, by the way, there is not, with the exception of the Adjutant General, Zami Bey, a single military man) and a yet far greater number of horses, dromedaries, and mules accompany him. Two *garnitures*, each consisting of fifty tents, with all the necessary furniture and two complete kitchens are alternately brought into use during the journey, so that there is never any necessity to wait for anything, for as soon as you arrive, you find your lodging and meals both ready for you. Early in the morning, about half an hour before sunrise, the Viceroy mounts on horseback, and besides his special attendance only the Mudir (governor) of the province, through which he is at the time travelling, is obliged to be near him; all the others follow without any regard to order, and, indeed, we scarcely ever saw the Adjutant General on the road. There was altogether (if we except the strict oriental custom, that no one is to seat himself before the master) much less constraint and respect for the

person of the Viceroy than I expected, although an affectionate veneration for the ruler was always evident, without the least trace of shyness, fear, or embarrassment. At the same time everything bore the mark of the most exemplary order, totally free from the confusion and noisy bustle which so frequently attends the travelling of European sovereigns. In all other respects, however, the customs of this court have already become far more European than oriental, and are distinguished at once by gentle demeanour and remarkable politeness and ease, *ad regis exemplum*. For truly it is scarcely possible to see a more amiable old man, of so exalted a rank as Mehemet Ali, so punctual (punctuality constitutes the politeness of Princes) so perfectly serene and good tempered, so simple and natural in his habits, and without the least pretensions whatever; indeed, I might almost say so child-like and unembarrassed, that one is often surprised how this harmless and kind old man, apparently adored by his whole retinue, should be the same, who by his head and his arm alone, has created and preserved a powerful kingdom, under the most difficult circumstances, the terrible destroyer of the Mamelukes, and the conqueror of the Sultan, his former



master, whom when tottering after the battle of Konieh, he might perhaps, if he had chosen it, have easily overthrown—the same man, in short, who was represented so long in Europe both as the greatest tyrant and the most unfeeling egotist of our time, and whom, to the present day, many look upon, in a not much more favourable light than a bugbear!

As soon as the Viceroy's *siesta* was over, Zami Bey had his customary audience of his Highness, and the despatches of the first courier (for he receives two every day, one from Alexandria, the other from Kahira,) were opened and the answers forwarded. As soon as this business was despatched, the Viceroy sent for me. He received me in his superb tent, where a divan of red velvet, embroidered with gold, stood in the back ground. For the first time I saw him here in a short, black dress without the usual fur, which became him remarkably well, and appeared to make him at least ten years younger. It was singular that, dressed in this almost ancient Spanish black dress, and with the imposing manner so natural to him, he awakened in my mind some of the deeply impressed recollections of my boyhood, for he bore a most striking resemblance to the deceased Fleck (whose stature was about the

same) in the part of King Phillip in Don Carlos.

“Do you know,” he said as I entered, “what I have this moment decreed? A bank at Kahirah, for which I provisionally advance a capital of one million of Spanish dollars, and besides that the estates of such of my children as are not yet of age, will be added to the same fund. The bank will, according to the custom of the country, advance money at twelve per cent, and will pay ten per cent for the money lent to them; and I hope to live to see soon the good effects of this measure. Enterprising people will now no longer be in want of capital to follow out their speculations, and the people who are still foolish enough to hide every para they earn—although they ought by this time to know from experience, that under my reign, none need any longer entertain the slightest fear for the property they may have amassed—will perhaps gradually step forward with their money, and begin to see that it is better to keep it constantly in use, than to allow it to lie idle.”

“Recently,” he continued, “an insignificant Sheik (chief of the village) of this place, who was not considered to be a man of much property, left, notwithstanding, in ready money,

about sixty thousand gazi. I should never have heard anything about it, had not a dispute arisen amongst the children concerning the inheritance, and one of them applied to me for assistance. I sent for them all and advised them to come as speedily as possible to an amicable arrangement; for, if you once fall into the hands of the Cadi, I told them, 'not only *one*, but all of you will come off badly.' They followed my advice, and acted wisely."

Some expressions, which followed this remark, convinced me sufficiently that Mehemet Ali is quite as discontented with the clergy, who, amongst the Mussulmen, perform a great part of the judicial duties, and possess altogether an influence dangerous to the state, and feels himself quite as much tied and encumbered as the Sultan at Constantinople, and in fact, considers any clergy furnished with so much power exceedingly noxious, and destructive to all governments. Should a reform in this respect succeed, the oriental countries would gain more by it than by any other measure, as formerly the christian world benefited by Protestantism, which has latterly been too inactive; for independently of the question, whether, in a religious point of view, much has

been gained by it or not, its *political* advantage was immense.

By means of the Reformation, the christian priesthood were thrust back within the proper bounds to which they should be limited, or, at least, brought near them, whilst here the priests still remain a powerful corporation encroaching upon the government, and on every occasion opposing it.

After reflecting for some time, the Vice-roy resumed the topic of finance.

“I am convinced,” he said, “that large treasures of ready money, are still lying buried in Egypt, (as before stated). This has always been our custom; and, formerly, property could not be preserved in any other way, during the reign of mere arbitrary will. In those days, we were all barbarous, ignorant, imperfectly acquainted with the extent of *crime*, and regarding only our own *interest*. But, since I have become master here, I can say with a good conscience, that, as far as my knowledge extends, and as far as I can obtain information, no injustice in private affairs has been wittingly suffered by me. I am well aware that it is said, I oppress the Fellahs, and yet it can easily be shewn, that their condition has been already greatly improved, and ren-

dered much safer than it ever was before ; although I am, certainly, not able, yet, to do near as much for them as I should wish ; the fault, however, is not mine. It is further more asserted, that I have made myself the only proprietor in my kingdom ; this is, likewise, quite a false and superficial view. The Feddan, which the Fellahs cultivate, is, as regards the profit thence accruing, as good as his real, though necessarily limited, property ; indeed, he can even sell it, that is, he may give it over to another Fellah on his own conditions—but, I will not allow him to leave it uncultivated—and, this restriction, on my part, is, at present, indispensable. His taxes are by no means out of proportion, for he pays to government, varying according to local circumstances, on an average, only the fourth part of the harvest, partly in kind, partly in money, as ground rent, and that only of *one* harvest, whilst he, generally, reaps two,—and, in Lower Egypt, frequently three harvests annually from his soil. The *axalte*, in indirect taxes, do not fall upon the cultivator of the soil, but on the commercial man. They may be oppressive, but I have my reasons for continuing them ; and, do they not exist everywhere in Europe, under ano-

ther guise? Yes, indeed, and, they tell me, even on a more extensive scale. I know that an Englishman, whose book you have, undoubtedly read, has made 'a list of all a Fellah has to pay to my government, but this whole calculation is, from beginning to end, full of erroneous statements, and ridiculous misapprehensions. If it were really well founded, the Fellah would have to pay the government more than he is capable of making.

“But your travellers come here, and very rarely look beyond the shores of the Nile—excepting where they can see antiquities—always the main object of their journey. As a secondary consideration, they casually twaddle a little about my administration, on the report of the first gossip they may meet with.”

He, then, related with a great deal of humour, several laughable anecdotes of travellers, who had told him, as eye-witnesses, things concerning Arabia, Africa, and Syria, which he knew, certainly, to be erroneous; and, he added, that he was thus convinced of the ignorance and credulity of most of those gentlemen, and had formed a very sorry

opinion of them ; an opinion, that daily experience confirmed him in.

I admitted that he might, often, be perfectly correct in this view, and that, as regarded him and his acts, the most ridiculous opinions were, indeed, continually formed by the most incompetent judges ; but, it was extremely difficult to correct these, as it required no small talent thoroughly to understand a man like him, and properly to appreciate, and delineate his character.

“ Oh !” he exclaimed, “ very little talent is necessary for that—it requires nothing but an anxiety to seek for truth, and then the honest will to adhere to it.”

I now endeavoured to lead the conversation towards a subject which I had several times touched upon in his presence ; and was anxious to seize every opportunity to press it upon him, viz., to fit up an expedition for the discovery of the sources of the Nile.

For that he has, however, unfortunately, as little sympathy as for antiquities and objects of art.

“ Patience, patience !” he exclaimed, petulantly ; “ I cannot do everything at once. The ruler of Darfur, a considerable

time since, had one half of an embassy, whom I had sent out to him with amicable views, murdered, and the other part were imprisoned at his command. These unfortunate men, are still languishing there, whilst the real, lawful possessor of the country, has sought refuge with me, and is now residing in Kordofan at my expense.

“The insult I have received, is grievous ; and, it is very possible, that I shall find myself, in consequence, compelled to go to war with Darfur ; which would, then, greatly facilitate that European project—the discovery of the sources of the Nile. Yes,” he here interrupted himself, with an arch expression in his look ; “were the circumstances different, did the Sultan of Darfur, understand our mutual interests better, and were I not obliged, in my own defence, to exhaust my resources in armaments against dangers that threaten me from Europe, how much could I not accomplish here for my people ; and, at the same time, also for European science in the interior of Africa ! At present, my hands are tied in every direction.”

Besides, he would not admit, as an established fact, that the white river was the real Nile ; and maintained that the sources of the blue river,



were by no means yet discovered; and that, at all events, the true springs of the Nile, must be sought for much further in the interior of, or even beyond, Abyssinia, than travellers generally, who, according to him, are little to be depended upon—as Bruce, for example,—have hitherto asserted.

“It would be easy to ascertain this with certainty,” he continued, “and even to conquer Abyssinia itself, if one wished to do so, but,” he exclaimed, laughing, “this would cause my friends, the English, great annoyance, and would be of little use to me.”

I insisted on my opinion, that the Bahr-el-Abiad was the real Nile; as was, also, I said, believed by the greater part of the scientific men of Europe; adding, that I hoped to see the moment, when his empire would extend itself to a length of one hundred hours from the “Mountains of the Moon,” to those of Adana; and, afterwards, asked him, how far he himself, had penetrated towards the south of his own dominions—which, already, extend to the 10th degree!

“Not further than to Quadi-Halfa,” he replied, “and that, only in order to regulate the necessary passage of the second cataract of

the Nile, which is situate thereabout, for my vessels of transport.

“It was one of the pleasantest journeys I ever made in my life, and I undertook it in a small bark with only a few followers; and, we made it with continued favourable winds from Kahira, within twenty days, there and back—an undertaking, which has never before been performed.”

He related, with evident delight, the details of this expedition, which was underlaken when he was a young man, and told me how the storm had once torn the sail of his kangshe, and how he had enjoyed the terror of his companions, when the boat was upset, and they were half immersed in the water; “For,” he said, “in the first place, I can swim well, and then I know, that even if a kangshe or dahabia upsets, it will never sink on the Nile, as long as it does not leak. I have, for a long time, made experiments of this kind; and, having caused kangshes to be laden with disproportionate ballast, they were purposely upset, without ever sinking. Still more delightful was our general passion for the chase, during this journey,” he continued, “considering what wretched shots we all were; and I believe,

that of the ten thousand shots we fired not ten wild geese were hit."

To a question of mine, whether it were possible to render the cataracts fit for regular navigation, he answered quickly :

" Why not ? Everything is possible, but I cannot think of it, there are too many things pressing on me at present. My children may execute that undertaking, I have but very little time left !"

I disputed this latter remark, and said that his activity indicated, yet, so much real youthfulness in his whole mental and bodily organisation that he must, no doubt, still expect many years of restless activity.

" No, no," he exclaimed, " when I have settled my tedious political disputes and finished the *barrage* I shall be contented ; and if I am destined to live after this, I contemplate leaving the stage of my own accord, and giving up the government into the hands of my son. I long for rest. You wished to reconcile me to old age by your obliging expressions, but believe me seventy years carry their burden ! But it is time to break up," he exclaimed, at the same time rising from his seat, " and we must not miss the appointed hour."

The Viceroy's horse stood already saddled in front of the tent, and as if the act was to contradict his words, the vigorous old man vaulted, like a youth, into the saddle and rode on so fast in advance, that we, on our fatigued horses, as well as the greater part of his suite, could not keep up with him.

We had previously supped, and when we arrived at our quarters for the night, he was already occupied expediting the despatches which had arrived since then; here I found a still more spacious tent, than the one I had occupied in the morning, fitted up for me.

I did not this time follow Mehemet Ali's example, who never goes to rest before midnight, although he rises again at four o'clock in the morning, but went in search of my bed without loss of time.

The following morning, half an hour before sun-rise, as usual, we started, the Viceroy with several Kawass and the Marmuhr, the two Sais running next to his horse, his chief valet, as outrider before him, and a suite forming a line of half an hour in length, trotting after him one by one.

As soon as he observed me and his dragoon Artim Bey, (whom I never lose sight of) he called me immediately to him, wishing me in

the most friendly manner good morning and a happy journey.

After having thanked him and assured him that a journey in his company could not be anything but happy for me, he said jestingly, that early rising, after what he had heard of my manner of life, must be rather troublesome to me; but for his own part, he had always been accustomed to see the sun rise, and preferred early hours.

The conversation continued in this lively strain, but I shall pass over it, as it only touched upon localities which have little or no general interest.

Our route conducted us, as on the day before, through fields unparallelled for fertility as far as the eye could reach, and, although M. de Cadalve, amongst his numerous exaggerations, asserts, that the Viceroy forces the Fellahs all over Egypt to cultivate nothing but cotton, because this article is to him the most productive, whilst it brings in the least profit to the Fellah, and that owing to this oppression, a great portion of the country was lying waste; an evil state of things, which was every year encreasing, I can nevertheless, maintain that I, in a long four days' journey through an almost

uninterrupted extent of the most beautiful and fertile fields, scarcely anywhere else to be met with, have not seen a single field planted with cotton.

Perhaps M. de Cadalve only looked upon Egypt, "from the Nile and his bark," whence, certainly, owing to the high banks of the Nile, either nothing at all is to be seen, or very frequently nothing but uncultivated soil, the very natural cause of which is frequently overlooked, viz. that close to the Nile the ground is in many parts elevated and only begins to decline in the fast expanding plain, when past the distant chains of mountains, [occasioned by the continually rising of the bed of the river.

Now, a height of 21—24 picks of water being necessary for a sufficient overflow, these elevated spots cannot be rendered productive, although the soil is good, without a disproportionate outlay, until there is a regular system of canals, dams and sluices (at which the Viceroy is now working with restless energy.) The traveller who observes from his bark these wide, barren plains, the full limits of which cannot often be seen, naturally enough takes out his pocket-book, and readily notes down the following observation :

Owing to the want of hands, occasioned by the Pasha's decimating the Fellahs by the military service, and the intolerable burden of taxes which he imposes upon them, half Egypt is now lying waste, and a speedy alteration of affairs, by force, seems inevitable.

We passed a number of villages, and found everywhere a great many labourers occupied about the canals and sluices.

The Viceroy was everywhere received by the assembled inhabitants, with their national salute, which consists in uttering a shrill note, resembling the song of the bittern. These expressions of joy were perfectly voluntary, for the custom of enforcing these exclamations by the police is here, (where there is indeed no police,) as yet unknown. What surprised me most was the total absence of servile manners amongst the Fellahs, who only endeavoured by the most simple salute to express their veneration and good feeling; the inhabitants of one village even came in procession, to make the Viceroy the most bitter reproaches, for not having chosen their village for his resting place for noon, instead of pitching his tents half an hour's ride further in the open fields.

The same ease and frankness also existed

among the courtiers as among all the domestics, and the old chief valet of Mehemet Ali, who never rode behind him, but always by his side, frequently conversed with his master without lifting his hand to his face, which is otherwise *de rigueur*, and equivalent to our touching the hat or cap.

Other Fellahs came screaming and making a great noise, and demanded not to be forced to work at a dam, which the Viceroy had, according to the system of his great undertakings, ordered to be constructed for the better irrigation of the country.

These people were severely rebuked and driven away by the Sais, with up-lifted stick : and thus the affair ended.

"You see how they are," said Mehemet Ali, addressing me, "this work is indispensable for their own support, and yet I am obliged to force them to it. I must have a head for all of them, and a single head, for so many people, is really too little!"

He hereupon entered into some details on this subject, and assured me, that only for the immediately urgent and most indispensable means of support were the Fellahs obliged to work *en corvée* ; but that this was only for



three months in the year, during which time it was moreover so arranged that every month only a third part of the inhabitants of the village should be employed at it, and that, therefore, in reality, no more than a month's labour in the Viceroy's service could be said to fall to the lot of each Fellah.

All labour at the new canals and sluices would be paid for, and as a rule, excepting in cases of the utmost necessity, no one would be forced to work; he thought, for the future, of employing the military in these undertakings, a plan which his son had already commenced.

May I be permitted on this occasion to make a few observations on the amiable and generous relations existing between Mehemet Ali and his successor to the throne. Far from mean jealousy, which is frequently in civilised Europe, a kind of tacit constitutional law, Ibrahim is not only continually taken into his counsels, but the reins of government are even, with confidence, placed in his hands, whenever the Viceroy is absent. Thus is he, at present, his father's absolute representative at Cairo, and any wish expressed by him seldom remains ungratified.

With how much discretion, on the other

hand, does Ibrahim, who is otherwise frequently rude and harsh in his manners, exercise this power, and with how much filial respect he treats his father and sovereign!

It is truly touching to see that this fierce warrior, crowned with victory, and whose rank as a Turkish vassal, (*viz.* as a Pasha of Mecca), exceeds even that of his father, does not *venture* to seat himself in the presence of the latter, without repeated invitations to do so, and never for one moment lays aside the most humble subjection in his entire behaviour. And with all this it is easy to see that each of them is proud of the other, a humane and beautiful example which is rarely to be met with in persons of such exalted ranks.

These two natures, indeed, combine, as it were, to supply each other with doubly increased strength, and, in the present conjuncture, one could scarcely do without the other, however inferior Ibrahim is in every respect to what his father still is, and to what he was at the same age.

Thus, whenever away from his father, for example in Syria, Ibrahim, at times, commits follies, and allows himself a pernicious arbitrariness; in Egypt he is but an attentive

vassal of the master, and at the same time an industrious husbandman.

Whenever we arrived at the station, where we halted for dinner, I, as well as Artim Bey, and the other courtiers, were in the habit of taking an hour's rest in the tent, and regaling ourselves with a pipe and coffee, whilst the indefatigable Viceroy was in the mean time still prolonging his walk. We did not go to see him until after his return, whereupon after about a quarter of an hour's conversation dinner was served, of which I alone partook with the Viceroy.

The table being cleared, the Viceroy usually took his seat immediately on the divan, at his desire, I seated myself next to him, Artim Bey placed himself with the fan on the other side of him, and as soon as the coffee was brought in, a gracious wave of the hand was the signal for the courtiers and domestics to retire.

This was the period when Mehemet Ali used to give full play to his reflections and spoke with the utmost freedom and candour.

On this occasion he related to me a number of incidents from his own life.

"I cannot last much longer," he said, rest-

ing his head upon his hand, "for I have had to suffer too much in my younger days. My whole life was a constant struggle. When I was still in my father's house, in Macedonia, the nobles, and those in power oppressed the whole province with revolting despotism. Riot on riot was the consequence, and our village, in conjunction with others, endeavoured to combat force by force. But who commanded the insurgents in this quarrel? Young Mehemet Ali. And badly enough he fared. I suffered so many little defeats, that on one occasion the most fortunate of my opponents called out to me! Are you not yet tired of being beaten? for I am already tired of beating you. At last however, we succeeded by dint of perseverance in gaining part of our object."

He now passed on to his long wars with the Mamelukes in Egypt.

"They were brave people," he said, "and my troops were so much in terror of them, that if they had but feared God half as much, they would certainly have established their claim to eternal bliss in Paradise. In the commencement, the Mamelukes would have been in no need of arms; it would have sufficed to have beat their little drums to send all my people running away, whom I must, in

that case, necessarily have followed. My son, Tossum Pasha, as well as my other relatives, shared the same lot. By degrees, however, I taught my soldiers the art of warfare by making war, and God assisted me. At one time flying, I sometimes succeeded, on the other hand, in surprising a small party, and in cutting them up. This gave us some encouragement, and I continued restlessly to organise, and placed myself, wherever there was the least possibility of so doing, at the head, and after many years of uncertainty, during which I was a hundred times on the brink of ruin, my perseverance was finally crowned by the most perfect and effectual victory."

"And how," he exclaimed, with his lively imagination, skipping over a long period, "how fared it with me latterly with the Porte! I never dreamt of what has happened! I only wanted, Heaven is my witness, I only wanted to remove my personal enemy, Abdallah Pasha from Acre, there to take measures for my own security, and afterwards to settle all further differences with the Porte on amicable terms. But when I saw clearly that they had determined in Constantinople on my utter destruction, I was obliged to anticipate the stroke. They then sent people from

the capital to *advise* me not to enter into so mad an enterprise as to oppose myself to the Sultan. They told me to consider the sad fate of Paswan Ogle, Ali Pasha, the Pasha of Skutari, of Bagdad, and others."

At all this I could but laugh, and answered :—

The gentlemen might return, the sooner the better, and if they had any good advice to give, to bestow it on the Sultan himself, who required it more than I did ; for all the Pashahs mentioned put together, had not possessed even one fourth the power of Mehemet Ali ; they had, therefore, better consider well before they obliged him to make use of it. They would not listen to me, and you see the result. At present, I repeat, I have but one wish and that is, that I may be allowed, in peace and quiet, to lay the foundation of the happiness and prosperity of Egypt."

When I, recapitulating what he had been and what he was at present, notwithstanding all the misfortunes he had suffered, still praised his success ; he made a curious observation—" Fortune," he said, is like a hurricane, which brings the ship speedily into harbour, but if the pilot has not a sound head, it will soon dash the vessel to pieces. Fortune is, frequently, much more difficult to manage than adversity." With these words, incom-

moded by the heat which had become almost intolerable, he took off his tarbush, and stroking his hand across his bald head, he said : " This old head has long since become grey ! " But for that reason not the less sound, I observed, and contemplated him with the eye of a phrenologist, which was rendered more easy by his hair being shaven off. It was a fine skull, with strongly developed organs, and rendered conspicuous by the animal part being as perfectly developed as the intellectual, as was the case with the heads of Napoleon and Alexander, a certain organ, by the bye, projecting most remarkably. His medical attendants, at a later period, perfectly confirmed me in the justice of my observation, and spoke of extraordinary powers in this respect, the like of which they had never before met with ; this convinced me of the truth of Napoleon's very trite saying : "*qu' il n'y a pas de héros sans, etc. etc.*"

The Viceroy acknowledged the great services he had received from several Europeans, although he at the same time expressed himself in very bitter terms against the dishonesty and incapacity of others. The description he gave of the character of one of those whom he valued most, M. de Cerisy, was exceedingly *naïve*.

“It was impossible,” he said, “to agree with this man in the common way; he fired up at every word and would never do anything according to my ideas, but always according to his own. Once, I remember, he made me bitter reproaches about my impatience, owing to which, he asserted, I obliged him to hurry too much in all his affairs, and caused him to build bad ships, whilst, if I would allow him the necessary time, he would be enabled to build them without a fault.

“Be calm, I said, with great composure, for notwithstanding all that you are now boasting I know for certain that you will never be able to build me better vessels than those you first constructed for me.

“At these words I saw the blood rushing to the cheeks of the passionate man, and an explosion ready to burst forth, when I interrupted him laughing. Thou fool, I exclaimed, the ships, good or bad, have conquered for me St. Jean d’Acre, and therefore the whole of Syria, because they were finished *at the right time*. What would have been the good of the most perfect vessels to me, if, when I wanted them, they had still been hammering away at them in the arsenal!

“But it did not always end like this,



our disputes became more frequent, and for the most trifling cause he demanded his dismissal. I however insisted with calmness on my determination, patiently overlooking whatever might at times be undertaken in direct contradiction to my authority, and frequently had recourse to my friend, the French Consul, in order to appease Cerisy, who was continually enraged without the least cause. At last, however, I really lost him, and shall always regret it. They endeavoured when he had left, thinking he was out of favour, to bring all manner of accusations against him ; I, however, forbade them to speak either favorably or unfavourably of him to me ; for God had sent this man to me. He knew how to promote my interest, but not his own ; others understand both ; most persons only the latter."

As we had but a short march to our quarters for the night, we did not start before the cool of the evening. This time I purposely remained behind, in order not to tire the Viceroy with my company, supped with Artim Bey and the exceedingly amiable Doctor Gaetano, and was about to retire to bed, when towards eleven o'clock, his Highness unexpectedly sent an invitation for me, to pass

another hour with him, an order which I, of course, obeyed with the greatest readiness, although, to confess the truth, yawning with sleep.

I found the Viceroy sitting on a low couch, engaged in answering the despatches of his second courier. With the greatest politeness he always rises whenever I enter his tent, and did so on this occasion, although at the time deeply occupied with his work. He requested me to take my seat by his side and to excuse his finishing his business ; he would be ready immediately, and begged that I would, in the mean time, amuse myself with the journal which had just arrived for him. Artim Bey handed it over to me ; it was the "*Constitutionnel* !" I was, however, more interested in observing Mehemet Ali, than in reading. He looked attentively through every paper that was laid before him, and communicated his instructions, in a low voice, to a secretary, who was standing close beside him. Whatever he had done with he threw on the carpet ; where anything was to be added, he handed it to the secretary, and occasionally applied to Artim Bey. Everything seemed to be expedited in the most simple manner and with decision and promptitude. In a quarter of an hour he ha<sup>d</sup>

finished; the secretary put the papers together, received some fresh orders, and was dismissed. Like a simple citizen, who, after finishing his business for the day, makes himself comfortable, and smokes his last pipe with enjoyment and contemplation, Mehemet Ali placed himself at his ease in a corner of the ottoman, supported by cushions, and after two of his Tshibucks, decorated with valuable enamel and precious stones, had been brought to us from his inexhaustible collection, he exclaimed, "Now let us talk away another hour before we retire to rest."

This love of conversation he has in common with Napoleon, who during his last campaign in Germany, passed many hours in the night in conversation with the Saxon General Gersdorf, although the latter spoke French so badly that the Emperor was obliged to repeat aloud the General's sentences, before he was enabled to understand them perfectly; I began by complimenting the Viceroy on the fact that he paid his servants more generously than any sovereign in Europe, England's ruler alone excepted; a circumstance which must necessarily procure him the best servants.

"Oh! in time that shall certainly be the case,"

he replied in an evasive manner, "I am not as yet able to do as much as I should like for them."

And yet, I said, according to European notions at least, my assertion is true ; for the salary of many of our German princes, is far inferior to the pay of your governor in Kandia ; and our generals and ministers, do not possess one quarter of the income of yours ; although the mode of living in Europe is dearer by far than here, and moreover a far greater expenditure is expected of them.

"In that case," observed the Viceroy, "these officers are no doubt always in possession of a very large private property, and serve for honor's sake ; whilst my servants only live by their salary."

At this answer I involuntarily made a grimace, for all manner of amusing, home recollections occurred to me ; it would however, have been useless to give utterance to them, and I therefore directed the conversation back to England. After some observations on my part, Mehemet Ali said with rather a satirical expression :

"You do not seem to be a great admirer of the English."

With exceptions, I replied ; I certainly do

not find them very amiable, and as a European, their sly, nothing-regarding "universal monarchy of commerce," awakens in me as humiliating a feeling, as did once Napoleon's despotism. Who however, on the other hand, can deny their claim to the highest qualifications, the most imposing organisation and creations of national life and the most glorious deeds! It is a pity that they so frequently eclipse all these by a too gross egotism, by a too insufferable arrogance; and the latter becomes the more hateful, being almost entirely based on their superiority of wealth, which, after all, they have only amassed either directly or indirectly at others' expense.

"That lies in the nature of man," Mehemet Ali interrupted, "and must not be blamed too severely in the English. Wealth brings power, and with it necessarily a confidence, that, owing to human weakness, cannot remain entirely free from arrogance. Is not every class of society in England wealthier than on the Continent, and are there not many noblemen there who enjoy an income of more than a million Spanish dollars? How can such a people possibly remain modest!"

I was obliged to laugh at this *argumentum ad hominem*—and acknowledging myself de-

feated, entered upon a new topic. The conversation about money was, however, continued as usual with much pleasure on the part of the Viceroy. He again mentioned his project of the bank, and again complained of the deep rooted inclination of the Egyptians to bury their Mammon, instead of doubling it by usury. He seemed to be perfectly aware that it was not the *mass* of ready money, but rather its quick circulation, and the credit thence arising, that constituted the real wealth of a nation.

"This truth," he continued, "was ever present to me, and I was always disputing with my ministers, who were continually persuading me to amass a large treasure for the time of need. I strenuously opposed them, by observing, that if you wished in time of need to have much at your disposal, you must not lock your money up in the strong-box, but employ it well, and even were I daily punished for it, I should, notwithstanding, never alter my opinion; I have set my subjects an example to act according to this maxim, and when, at some period or other, they have become independent, they will imitate me to their own and my advantage."

He hereupon, without the least restraint, spoke of his former ignorance, and how he had

endeavoured to gain information on all subjects by long continued meditation, until he had discovered the truth, for, every thing he heard he kept stored in his memory, and examined it well ; after which, however, he acted promptly and allowed nothing to deter him.

“ I am blamed,” said he, “ amongst other things for having monopolised the whole commerce of the country for my own interest. Had I not done so, no commerce at all would have existed here, at least *we* should have gained nothing by it. I have already thrown open a part of the trade in the interior to the competition of private individuals, seeing, as I fancy, the nation by slow degrees waking from their lethargy, and beginning to understand the advantages offered to them. I am likewise about to place a part of the manufactories in the hands of the speculators. But the foreign trade I must continue for a time to conduct myself. Napoleon has already said : ‘ *que les negociant de l’Europe sont des bandes organisées.*’ We do not as yet possess such bands, and my ignorant and indolent Egyptians would soon become a prey to foreign merchants, if I myself did not oppose them, I, who am not so easily imposed upon. As soon

as I see that the time has arrived, I shall likewise, with regard to this, introduce another system; for do you think I am not aware that money is only the representative of produce? Whenever my people are capable of becoming wealthy of their own accord, I will with pleasure resign to them the trouble which is its companion, and hope to feel myself in no wise the worse for it. But they must allow me to be a better judge than the editor of the '*Journal de Smyrne*,' of what may benefit my country at *one* period and at what another. The Franks have a good proverb, which says, '*Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien*.' I have always endeavoured, as far as it is possible, to obtain the latter before I thought of the unattainable former. Thus I found it necessary above all, to establish a firm and wealthy government in Egypt, and at the same time to continue to ameliorate the education of my people. In due time what has already been attained, will serve no doubt to establish a still better one; but whoever expects with *one* bound to reach the goal, will certainly fail. Many of my acts may appear severe, and many greater men than myself have not been judged more favourably—but that does not grieve me. What I have heard for example, of



Peter the Great, proves to me that this prince, who, like me, was obliged to effect everything by his own exertions, proceeded ten times more arbitrarily and despotically than myself; and, yet his people, whom he made at first, discontented, as well as posterity, have at last done justice to his memory. I too look forward to posterity for an impartial judgment, and if God only grant me a few years longer to labour, and if it be within the limits of possibility, firmly to establish what is begun, I shall not fear its verdict. Why do I work by day and night — why do I shun neither trouble—exertion, nor inconvenience in my old age, in order to see, as far as it is possible for me to do so, with my own eyes, if it be not for the purpose of completing the fabric that I have long since sketched out in my mind. I am in possession of all that can conduce to my own personal ease and happiness, I can enjoy all the pleasures of earthly existence in the most comfortable repose, and yet I give myself endless trouble; this is really not from egotism! The glory and the consciousness of having been the founder of the permanent welfare of the estates over which I rule — constitute my

ruling motives, and all the days of my life shall be entirely devoted to this aim."

These words which were expressed with fire and enthusiasm were not, it is true, contrary to the ideas I had formed of Mehemet Ali's character — but they appeared so different from what the reports, spread in Europe, have insinuated respecting this remarkable man, that I listened to them coming from his own mouth, with a mixed sensation of inward satisfaction and doubt which I was unable entirely to overcome.

The mode of living during our journey was so nearly of the same character, that I need not mention anything more about it, nor about the sameness of appearance and unparalleled fertility of the country through which we travelled. My conversation with Mehemet Ali alone afforded constant diversity.

I have seldom seen a man of whatever class of society, who is more insinuating and attractive in his manners, than Mehemet Ali when he pleases.

The varying expression of his eyes, and his whole physiognomy is, then, accompanied by an expression so agreeable and amiable, that you are involuntarily fascinated. In argument, he is all moderation and patience—

although I observed, that he is not easily led by others—but his benevolent demeanour, and exquisite politeness, are never laid aside.

Sometimes, when seated by his side, I was involuntarily lost in meditation, and was waiting for him to make some observation, in order to resume the conversation, he would bow to me, with that fascinating gracefulness, which is peculiar to him and softly touching my arm, exclaim —

“Come, tell me, what your thoughts are so deeply engaged with.” And I invariably felt obliged, as if by some magnetic influence, to acknowledge the truth—even if it were not always *de saison*.

He, however, always received my answers in the kindest possible way, and without embarrassment ; and, I was struck with surprise, to find that even, when the most tender subjects relating to his own life were mentioned, he was never in the least troubled, nor showed any sign of annoyance in his answers. This appears to me, a sure proof that this man, in all his actions, is always perfectly consistent ; and, as long as a man is *consistent*, he has nothing to reproach himself with.

Even little habits, which Mehemet Ali has

acquired, and which, generally, become ridiculous in other people, are, in him, by no means annoying.

For instance, he has a habit, when he is relating anything, to stop frequently, and, before he proceeds, to make use of the word *shendy*, (now, well), much more frequently than is absolutely necessary.

But, there is something so ardent, confidential, and *naïf*, in this, otherwise, useless repetition; he knows how to give the word so many different modulations, and his countenance bears, at the same time, so innocently amiable an expression, totally free from all affectation, that this favourite expression of his, only added another charm, in my opinion, to the stories he related, which were full of dramatic effect.

He has, in addition to this, some other peculiarities, which are, however, based on the general habits of Turks of high rank.

For example, he never carries anything about his person. If he is sitting on the divan, his snuff-box and pocket-handkerchief lie near him, but when travelling on horseback, both these articles are carried by his chief valet, who always rides by his side.

If he desire the one or the other, the chief valet gives it to one of the Sais, who, holding on by the saddle-cloth, run beside the Pasha's horse, and, on going up hill support his back, and on passing over any difficult road seize the reins of his horse.

The Sais mentioned, serves the Viceroy with the desired article, and as soon as it has been used, he returns it immediately to the valet; rather a complicated method of blowing your nose, or taking a pinch of snuff.

The chief valet, frequently attracted my attention. He was a regular character—the beau ideal of a squire of olden times in a novel—such as are no longer seen amongst us in reality. In the sharp features, furrowed by many a storm, both within and without, there was expressed steady gravity, unlimited devotion and fidelity, and an ever restless attention to the service of his master—whom, he seldom lost sight of.

He has served Mehemet Ali for the last thirty years; is, perhaps, himself, about fifty years old,—and his horse, as white snow, with the strength and durability of a knight's charger, seemed, likewise, to have served a good many years with him.

This man's behaviour towards the Viceroy,

was, full of respect ; but, accompanied by that perfect confidence, which can only result from a long intercourse, and from having lived to see many things together ; it was evident, that this man was *entirely* the creature of his master ; his *individuality*, totally merged in the *servant* ; every wish of his master for good or evil, under the most dangerous or common place circumstances, was sure to be instantly obeyed.

For relations like these, no doubt, unusual qualities were necessary, as well on the part of the master, as that of the servant ; and, they were also, owing, perhaps, to the extraordinary destiny of the former, whom the latter had followed for many years through success and adversity. Perhaps, also, Oriental and primitive natures are required for this ; for, Napoleon, when his stars fell, was deserted by his French Mameluke, Rustan.

As long as Mehemet Ali spoke as sovereign, legislator, soldier, or as the reformer of his country, he always appeared admirable to me ; the liberal observer, however, cannot be, by any means, surprised that as soon as the conversation turned upon science and the fine arts, he betrayed but little taste for the latter, and with regard to the former, owing to the want of an early education, frequently com-

mitted the most singular, and incredible errors. Our passion for searching after antiquities, and our delight at the sight of these old ruins was to him an insoluble enigma. It was still less possible to make him comprehend that, besides agriculture, plantations of trees and gardens, other æsthetic embellishments might be resorted to, to adorn and improve the country round in an artistic point of view, which would prove a great source of enjoyment to the eye. He always questioned the utility of such proceedings, and when I praised the picturesque form of a chain of mountains which we happened to pass, he always thought it a pity that it could not be irrigated, and consequently rendered fertile. He even laughed outright when I expressed the opinion that the promenades so tastefully laid out by Ibrahim, around Kahira, might furnish a much more splendid view, if an attempt were made to continue the plantations in the desert near them.

“As long as we have good soil remaining uncultivated in Egypt,” he replied very practically, “we shall certainly not think of the desert.”

He has, however, seen the utility of avenues, which afford shade to the traveller,

and has given orders gradually to decorate all the dams and embankments of the canals with rows of trees. Several attempts of this kind have, however, failed, in consequence of the indolence and the aversion of the natives to planting, for they either totally neglected, or ruined the trees. This species of Vandalism which is always to be met with among the uncivilised classes, is gradually on the decline. Artim Bey's countenance always expressed a degree of contempt when the expressions "picturesque," "romantic," &c., escaped my lips, and he left them out of the conversation, or did not translate them, as superfluous or unintelligible words. I consequently took this hint for the regulation of the future subjects and tendencies of my conversation.

The following example will serve as a proof of the confusion of historical knowledge in the mind of the Viceroy. He by no means disliked talking of his countryman, Alexander, and asked all manner of questions concerning the details of his history, which in general he was perfectly well acquainted with. On one occasion I mentioned that an architect, from Alexandria, had once laid before the Greek hero a plan of forming a statue of Alexander of the mountain Athos, which



lies opposite to Mehemet Ali's native village. Mehemet Ali enquired ironically, "whether this had only been a 'picturesque' idea? or whether the architect had, at the same time, produced an estimate of the expenses?"

I replied, that I could not give him anything like positive information on the subject; but thought it not at all unlikely that the power and treasures of the Conqueror of Asia might, very probably, have been adequate to so colossal an undertaking.

"I can by no means believe," interrupted the Viceroy, "that Alexander can have been so wealthy; all those rulers of ancient times must have been poor devils, compared with those of the present age, for were it not so, the Romans, who followed after Alexander, and during so many centuries were in possession of even more countries than he, would not have confined themselves to small coins of silver and copper."

He would not abandon this singular notion, and maintained that it was not until the discovery of America and its mines that we had so much treasure and ready money in the world. He offered to prove to me, immediately, that the Romans had been very poor; and related, that in the time of the

Regent Philip of Orleans, a Turkish ambassador had been sent to Paris, and had there inspected a stud which was celebrated in those days. But nothing about it had struck him with more surprise than the luxurious apartments, of the grooms and attendants, as well as the magnificence of the stables, the mangers being of marble. When he, therefore, expressed his astonishment at this to the courtier, who was given him as a guide, the latter is said to have exclaimed almost with anger :

“ What, have you so mean an opinion of the importance of the French nation ? Know, that one of our grooms is better lodged than the Roman Emperor in his palace ! Supposing this to be nothing but a French bravado,” the Viceroy added, “ yet it is sufficient proof that the Roman Emperor must have had the reputation of being very badly lodged, and consequently his people must have been very poor, a fact which is very natural indeed, considering they had nothing but copper money.”

Ignorance of this kind appears to us very amusing, but if we place ourselves in the position of a Turk, who has never received the least education, who began only in his thirty fifth year, on his own account, to learn

to read and write, and yet persevered with a most extraordinary genius, with a life distinguished, as one might say, by daily actions of the most remarkable nature, deficiencies of this sort only seem to us like spots in the sun.

In order, however, not to pass for a mere partial eulogist, I have purposely avoided making a secret of the weaknesses of this extraordinary man. For the rest, however, who knows whether Geoffrey of Bouillon, and many a celebrated ruler of the middle ages, would not, perhaps, have proved themselves still more ignorant than Mehemet Ali, when examined on similar subjects; and what is, after all, our own Encyclopædia-erudition worth in a life which, for the most part, passes away as inactively and needlessly as that of any vegetable? Such knowledge will neither assist us to enter heaven, nor hell, nor even the temple of fame.

In the course of the day, we rode past a large factory, which I mistook for one of his Highness's palaces, for flanked by a forest of palm trees its dazzling white walls gave a splendid appearance to the whole country around. Forgetful of my good intentions, I told the Viceroy that his country would pro-

duce a far more picturesque appearance to the eye of the traveller if he gave orders for all the houses of the villages, which now look so dirty with the mud of which they are built, to be white-washed.

“All in good time,” he replied, rather sharply, “I cannot do every thing at once, and before I think of white-washing the outside of the villages, more abundance must reign in the interior than at present. Yes,” he exclaimed, “I only wish to live ten years longer, and I hope that will be long enough to further the work I have began, that my children may quietly continue my labours and reign over more prosperous subjects !”

I replied, that with the present vigour of his mind and body, he might confidently reckon upon a longer period, and live to see those beneficial results, but that I myself anticipated the pleasure of speaking further on the subject with him in ten years time, when ambassadors from the foreign potentates, instead of consuls, would attend at his court.

“Very well,” he replied cheerfully and in the best of humours, “if I live ten years longer, I will send an express to you to Europe, to invite you to come and see whether I have acted as I propose. Some morning,

when you are little thinking of it, a well dressed Turk will ride into the court of your chateau and remind you, with a greeting from old Mehemet Ali, of your second journey to Egypt."

"With many thanks," I answered, "I shall keep your Highness to your word; and if I am living and in health, which must of course form a condition of all plans for the future, you may reckon with certainty on my visit. That which I promise to your Highness I hope to be able to perform to his Majesty."

"La, la," exclaimed the Viceroy, stroking his white beard. "I want no title, and never in my life signed myself otherwise than plain—Mehemet Ali."

On the following day, we halted to dine at a village, whose name I have forgotten to note down, and where the very elegant little flotilla of Nile boats, belonging to Mehemet Ali, had arrived. I profited by his siesta, to inspect, with Artim Bey, Mehemet Ali's *dahabiah*, the most elegant little boat of the kind I have ever seen, though the famous barge of Cleopatra no doubt surpassed it.

The saloon, which is as spacious and lofty as the dimensions will permit, is panelled with varnished wood of a sea green colour, and

bordered with gold; the curtains consist of heavy, violet coloured silk with gold fringes, and the divans around the cabin of velvet of the same colour, bordered with gold fringe and rich tassels. The frames of the windows are of gilt metal and the panes of plate glass, furnished with galloon like the windows of a carriage, to draw them up and down; varnished, green, venetian blinds defend them from the rays of the sun. The sleeping apartments and dressing rooms, are fitted up with the same taste, and a splendid tent of Persian embroidered stuff, of a yellow colour, form the ante-chamber, and is used also as a dining room. Twenty four negroes, clad in uniform, row the light boat rapidly along, keeping time with their oars; when contrary winds prevail, relays of fifty Fellahs, changed every half-hour, draw it, as rapidly as a fleet horse can trot, against the stream.

When I afterwards told Mehemet Ali of my visit to the flotilla, I heard that six thousand boats now navigate the Nile, two thousand of which are the Viceroy's property alone. At supper he told me many very interesting details, respecting the time when he definitively gained the sovereign power

over Egypt, some of which I have mentioned before. I expressed my sorrow that he had not dictated these instructive memoirs to some European to preserve them for history ; but he replied in these remarkable words :

“ Why should I do so ? I do not recur with pleasure to that period of my life, and of what use could the incessant tissue of strife, hardships, cunning and bloodshed, to which circumstances forced me to have recourse, be to the world ? Who can feel interested at hearing these disgusting details ! It is sufficient for posterity to know, that all that Mehemet Ali has become, he owes neither to birth nor favour, and to no one but himself. My history shall commence from that moment, when I began, without impediment, to rouse this country, which I love as I do my father-land, from the lethargy in which it had lain for centuries, and to prepare it for its regeneration.

“ It is singular,” he continued, “ that I should be the only child remaining of seventeen ! Nine of my brothers died at a tender age, which was the reason my parents educated me like a child of high birth. I soon became enervated and indolent, so that my young playfellows used to laugh at me, and ex-

claim—‘What will become of Mehemet Ali, who has nothing, and is himself good for nothing, when his parents die !’

This speech made a deep impression upon me, and I determined, when I was fifteen years of age, to conquer myself. I frequently fasted for several days, or deprived myself of sleep for the same length of time ; and never ceased practising all manner of bodily exercise, until I far excelled all my comrades. I remember rowing for a wager in a storm towards a small island, which is still my property. No one reached the goal excepting myself, for although all the skin was rubbed off my hands, I would not allow the excruciating pain to deter me from my purpose.

“ Thus I inured my mind and body to hardship, until I afterwards found sufficient opportunity, as I before told you, to prove myself useful to others in the petty warfare of our villages. When I was nineteen years of age, after the death of my father, a still better opportunity offered itself to me. Greek pirates had been guilty of various excesses, and my uncle, whom several of the influential Turkish landed proprietors wished to ruin, received, through their instrumentality, instructions to pursue the pirates, with a small ship of war



belonging to the Sultan, and to put a stop to their trade. My uncle was obliged to obey ; but he first went direct to the Pasha, to represent to him that all his property would be ruined if he left it thus suddenly for an indefinite period, as he could not trust the care of it to any one of his family ; he at the same time mentioned his incapacity for this duty, and took the opportunity of proposing me as his substitute, as an enterprising person, already accustomed to war. He succeeded in persuading the Pasha ; I wished for nothing more, and really had the good fortune not only to force the pirates to fly, but after a short pursuit, to board their vessel, and make prisoners of all who were not cut down. For this feat I was raised to the rank of a Turkish Captain, in my twentieth year. This rapid promotion excited envy, and created me many enemies ; my uncle even became jealous of me, and sent me, a short time afterwards, to Egypt, perhaps not with the best intentions. How little did I then think what the fates had destined me to be to that country ; but the ways of Providence are wonderful.”

‘ You may think yourself very fortunate,’ Artim Bey said to me, when I had made my *congé*, ‘ to hear these trials from the life of

this great man, in his own words, for they were, until now, unknown to us. I never saw Mehemet Ali so communicative with any one before."

I cannot deny that these expressions produced in me the effect a very agreeable flattery would have done, and perhaps they were nothing else.

On the following day the Viceroy begged of me early in the morning to ride by his side, for, said he, in journeys we ought to shorten our road by conversation, but the piercing heat and insupportable dust rendered talking almost an impossibility, for the wind blowing in our backs, covered us continually with black clouds of dust, beaten up by the hundreds of camels and horses behind us. At last it became too much even for the Viceroy, and he ordered a halt in a grove of stately mimosas.

In a moment a number of carpets were spread on the ground ; overhead was suspended a scarlet cloth, with golden fringe, and velvet cushions, were heaped up for his Highness and myself, on which we rested as comfortably as on a bed.

Scarcely were we seated when, as if at a hint of the geni of Aladdin's wonderful lamp,

cold punch and sherbet were brought us in golden cups, followed immediately by pipes and coffee.

"Well," Mehemet Ali began, after taking a few whiffs, "why do you not speak? I have scarcely heard ten words from you to day."

I must confess that the heat, the dust, and fatigue had rendered me so incapable of thought, that I was at a loss what to say, and with my usual candour, I made no secret of the circumstance, saying, "I have often thought of relating something new, which might interest your Highness, but have always found, to my surprise, that you were better informed on the subject than myself." He laughed at this expression, but was of opinion that a person who had seen as much as myself, could never be at a loss for entertaining matter, if he only wished to talk.

Being invited to speak, this appeared to me a very favourable opportunity to bring a subject on the *tapis*, which no one had latterly ventured to touch upon in the Viceroy's presence.

These are not subjects for this place, but the result proved to me that the seed I had sown had not fallen on sterile ground.

I merely mention this little scene to shew

*qu'il faut payer de sa personne avec Son Altesse*, if we wish to continue a warm conversation, and keep him in the humour for it. He is, moreover, very inquisitive, and is not so easily satisfied with common-place phrases, as many other great men, but feels the weak point in an argument, and detects it instantly. He several times pressed me very hard in this way, but this is certainly not saying much, for I am by nature shy, and possess but very little of the boldness of assurance. I could never make my appearance on a private stage without palpitation, much less on the great stage of the world. I certainly have succeeded sometimes in conquering myself.

We embarked at Dchirdsheh, and I did not see his Highness again before our arrival at Keneh, when I went to take leave of him, as I wished to continue my journey.

I had just returned from a visit to the temple of Denderah, which is buried, in an abominable manner, by rubbish, and the ruins of miserable huts.

As the Viceroy allowed me the most perfect freedom of speech, I told him plainly that he was greatly blamed in Europe for his total neglect of the ancient monuments, in which his country abounds, more than any other, and

said, that it was a duty he owed to his reputation on other matters to give a good example in this.

Your Highness, I continued, has the very best opportunity before you. The temple at Denderah is one of those which are in the best state of preservation in Egypt, and is not buried by the sand of the desert, which is so difficult to remove, but by rubbish and filth. A word from your Highness, and it will be restored in its ancient splendour.

“Very well—very well,” Mehemet Ali replied, “I will give you a proof of my European civilisation.”

He immediately had Mamuhr summoned, and gave him very judicious orders not only to clear out all the ruins of temples at Denderah, but to level the whole plain around and surround them with a fence, as a protection from future injury.

I thought on this occasion, as once before at Tunis, that I would not lose the favourable opportunity of doing our admirers of antiquities a little service, and on this account they must pardon me if, in my description of the monuments I inspected, I appear to them too superficial and brief, the reason of which is that I would not copy or repeat that which

they can find treated far more profoundly, and at greater length, in ten or more different books.\*

Before I took my departure I had to thank his Highness for a very great pleasure, for he sent me letters from home which had arrived with a packet by his courier.

The writers of these letters would scarcely have guessed through what celebrated hands they had to pass before they reached me.

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\* On my return, in six months after, I found, to my great mortification, that not a single spade had been employed to clear away the temple, a proof that the order given in my presence to the Mudir was only a farce, and that Mehemet Ali never thought seriously of engaging in an undertaking, which appeared in his eyes absurd and useless ; and he, no doubt, looked on my zealous pleading in this cause as a European monomania, which he thought himself called upon to treat with the same indulgence which the Turks shew towards every species of insanity. Since then I understand that some of Mehemet Ali's orders have been executed.

The wind swelled our sails, and we reached Thebes the same night whilst yet asleep. The first sight of the gigantic and wonderful buildings of this town in the morning, impressed us with the idea of a still continued dream.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THEBES.

NOTHING can be more gratifying to the man of susceptibility than the sight of the ruins of *Thebes* with the hundred gates—and certainly nothing can be more *ennuyeux* than to read a description of them, when tourists, without following any decided, scientific purpose, believe themselves called upon to give an accurate account of all the details, and set to work, ruler and manual in their hands. I have convinced myself of this to satiety more than a dozen times in various books of travels—works written on Egypt by indefatigable draughtsmen, copyists and compilers without ori-



ginality of ideal criticism, with which we are but too copiously supplied. I shall, therefore, be as brief as possible, and endeavour to give the reader some general conceptions, by placing such pictures before his view, as will leave an impression of the whole upon his mind. Those who wish for scientific instruction I must refer to the modern and ancient classic authors, who, though they do not always agree, give all the requisite information, as far, at least, as the discoveries up to the present time will admit.

This work will have fulfilled its end if it amuse and convey to the Dilettanti in the most faithful manner, all that a cursory view can impart. It is not written for learned investigators, and I hope I have sufficiently often repeated this observation to fix a limit to those claims that may reasonably be made upon me. Were I writing for practical Englishmen or Frenchmen, every word on the subject would be superfluous, but German pedantry requires this apology.

In taking a view of Thebes, it appeared to me essential that the tourist should gradually progress from the less remarkable to the higher order of objects, as he would

otherwise be deprived of half his enjoyment. I therefore invite the reader to land with me at the huts of the village of Gurneh, under a group of palm trees, on the left shore of the Nile.

At a distance of a mile to the west we see, beyond an extent of green corn-fields, the steep declivity of the barren Lybian mountains, dedicated to Hathor, the Egyptian Aphrodite, who here receives the sun daily in the shape of a grazing cow. Dark brown walls of rock rise perpendicularly, but the ground beneath them is undermined by a race of Troglodytes, that inhabit the old tombs, whose entrances are seen like dark spots dispersed over the white sand, for we have the Necropolis of Thebes, extending to a distance of eight miles before us.

The dead first greet us in their subterranean slumber, before we regard their imperishable works by the light of the eternal sun.

Riding further, in a southern direction, along the silent city of the dead, we soon see the first ancient temple, surrounded by the ruins of a Coptic village with dirty walls of unbaked bricks ; it is dedicated to Ammon, and was commenced by the father of the Great Rhamses, and finished by his son at a late.

period of the golden age of Egyptian art. It is of medium size, but what a difference from the imitation at Denderah which has already fallen into total decay !

How would he err, who confining his tour to this spot, should venture an opinion on Egyptian architecture and art ! There is about the same distinction between the two as between the ancient Gothic churches, which rose from powerful germs in the middle ages, and those which in the present age are so pitifully imitated by us.

Creative power in noble tranquillity, classic solidity from the most important point to the most minute detail with fancy's loftiest flight, technical perfection equal to every difficulty, and filling every one who has a taste and love for the arts with true gratification, are as forcibly expressed in the works of art at Thebes as in the Parthenon, although in a different and in every respect a more colossal form, and originating on a different soil, and under totally different circumstances.

Prokesch very justly observes : " Greek and Egyptian art cannot be classed above or below each other, but must be placed in juxtaposition."

That which at Denderah becomes almost

disgusting as an eternally repeated and monotonous caricature, I allude to that singular style of building, which religious duty and the many symbolic intellectual significations forced the artist to retain, is here nobly elaborated and varied in expression, and presents itself in a pleasingly and diversified form. Marginal lines engraved deeply, and with wonderful precision, surround, as a protection, *basso relievos* worked in with an accuracy, fidelity and beauty not to be surpassed.

It is positively unjust, to contend that art in Egypt was behind that in Greece, in perfection of form, for the former generally aims rather at the imposing than the beautiful.

According to *my own* taste, I never saw gods and kings seated with more imposing majesty on their thrones—I never beheld a more dignified expression among heroes, bearing sacrifices and offerings, than on the *chef d'œuvres* of Thebes, although the same conventional positions are in almost all, more or less repeated according to religious prescription. Thus the figures are for the most part, but not always, represented in profile; they are not treated according to the rules of perspective, but one half of the figure is abruptly

depicted—for instance, in females one breast is seen projecting, as in a *Pilhouette*.

Of the double Pylones of the temple described, and of the avenue of Sphinxes which leads to it, the original site is scarcely to be distinguished, and the building itself, which combines with a temple, as is very common in Egypt, a royal palace, for the most part is a heap of ruins ; many paintings, however, have been preserved in their original brilliancy of colouring under these ruins, and at the gates in the interior may also be seen ten columns of the portico which are of admirable proportions, their shafts representing bundles of aquatic plants crowned by an abakus.

I pass over the further details, which have been often enough described, in accordance with my proposed plan, and merely observe that I found a painting among the number buried in the interior under the ruins, which appeared to me to represent a mechanical contrivance for lifting large stones which is totally unknown to us ; this might be worthy of a closer inspection.

Leaving several less considerable ruins at one side, we arrive after a few thousand paces at the imposing ruins of a much larger temple formerly known by the erroneous name of the *Memnonium*, or grave of *Osymandias*, but re-

cognised by *Champollion*, as the palace of the great *Rhamses*, (whose name was perhaps also *Osymandias*, if it did not apply to *Memnon*,) and called after him the “*Rhamsejum* ;” it is not one of the most colossal but it was certainly one of the most remarkable creations of that age of wonders.

On the road to this spot, we discovered in the distance, with astonishment and pleasure, on the dark swampy ground in the midst of the plains, the two colossal statues, like two twins in a sitting posture, one of which, although both represent the same prince, is known as the statue of *Memnon*. I must confess that these gigantic statues, seated firmly in eternal rest, as if by enchantment, on their thrones of granite, where they have for more than three thousand years contemplated the confused revolutions of the world, produced a more imposing effect on my mind than the tasteless heaps of stone of the pyramids, which are surpassed by any similarly formed rock, produced by nature in greater dimensions. Seen at the distance these colossal statues do not appear to be mutilated ; it is only on nearer approach that we regret the blind rage of *Cambyses*, who, according to Herodotus, is said to have destroyed them.

I could not resist the desire of deviating from my path, to inspect them closely, before entering the *Rhamsejum*, which was much nearer to me. The uncultivated soil was so parched and intersected by ruts, formed by the heat of the sun, that the horses could scarcely traverse the plain; and they, several times, bent their knees involuntarily to the majestic old monarchs.

Both statues, cut out of hard sand stone, and called by the Arabs, *Thama* and *Shama*, are sixty feet in height, and are situate at a distance of fifty-six feet from each other. The southern statue is formed of one solid block of stone; the northern, on the other hand, which, according to tradition, Cambyses had sawed through the centre and thrown down, has been repaired in later times, by five layers of stone arranged one above the other; but the face, like that of the other colossus, has been destroyed, and the statue itself has, since then, been further mutilated.

The portion which has been restored, wants that fine polished coating of stucco, with which the Egyptians covered nearly all their statues of sand-stone or lime-stone, and frequently their buildings.

This admirable composition, is as durable as stone, and appears like a polish on all parts of this colossal statue, where it has not been damaged or repaired. The thrones on which the kings are seated, are superbly decorated with smaller statues on both sides and at the back of the throne, and a still smaller image rests between the feet of each colossus.

Pictures and hieroglyphics, are the accompanying embellishments—but all, more or less, damaged.

That the restored gigantic statue, situate towards the north, is the true statue of Memnon, which is said to have emitted the famous sound at sunrise, is proved by the Greek and Latin inscriptions, of the time of the Romans, on the feet, and on the pedestal likewise, by the visible marks of it having been sawn through or demolished by Cambyses' order.

Situate about a hundred feet behind this, is a mass of stone, which, from the effect of frequent hammering, appears like a huge rock, and might be regarded as the portion of the statue sawn off, more especially, as a group of two smaller, and connected statues, is observed close to it, which would correspond with the accounts of the ancients, that two smaller statues were situate near that



of Memnon, and were all formed of one and the same piece of stone ; this is, certainly, not the case now.

They might, however, (and this is the more probable conclusion) be the remains of another gigantic statue, many of which were undoubtedly erected on this spot, where one of the largest palaces of Thebes formerly stood, but of which scarcely a trace is now left standing. The authenticity of the statue of Memnon has ever been a subject of doubt. Among other letters, I received one whilst in Egypt, from Count Veltheim, our great Hippologue, to whom no branch of science is uninteresting, wherein he refers to a paper by his father, in which the latter contends with Norden, that the true statue of Memnon is, probably, the Torso of black granite now lying in the Rhamsejum ; for Pliny and others expressly assert that the statue of Memnon was formed of that stone, and the former observes, that the inscription on the pedestal of the statues, now supposed to be those of Memnon, were only engraven on them, as it was not so easy to effect this object on granite.

The evidence of Pliny and Philostratus must certainly be taken into consideration, although many errors may be traced in both authors ;

but who would have taken the trouble to transport the statue when it was thrown down in its present state of mutilation into the Rhamsejum which is situate at a distance of more than one thousand feet from it. This *Torso*, moreover, bears no trace of having been sawn through, or broken in the centre, as the one yet standing decidedly does. If Count Veltheim's hypothesis be correct, the true statue of Memnon has disappeared, or lies still buried in the sand, for the statue in the Rhamsejum is certainly not the true one. The error into which Norden fell, and Count Veltheim after him, arises from the circumstance of Norden having taken the Rhamsejum for the tomb of Osymandias, or for the Memnonium, the fallacy of which opinion has since been fully proved by Champollion and others.

The true Memnomium (Amenophion) undoubtedly stood behind the two gigantic statues on the rise of the hills, where the ruins of walls may be seen protruding from the sand. It is possible, and even almost certain, that several statues of the founder were erected in this temple, which, according to all accounts, must have been of very great extent, and it is probable that the chief statue was formed of granite, as the more noble kind of stone,

and it is also likely that it should have been hewn out of black granite, as Memnon himself or Amenophis the Third appears to have been an Ethiopian negro. The only question would now be, whether the statue, which in the *time of the Romans*, emitted the well-known sounds, at sunrise, is the same on which the inscriptions at present record the fact, and I think there can be little doubt of that, even if the restoration were effected in later times, for Strabo and Pausanias assert, as eye witnesses, that when they visited the spot, the upper portion of the colossus lay on the ground. As the statue at present consists of *several layers of stone, placed above each other*, and by no means of one piece, as Count Veltheim assumes, (even if it were originally formed from one solid block) there are no grounds in Strabo's and Pausanias's assertions, for denying the identity of the colossus seen by them lying on the earth, and by me again seen in a state of restoration and repair. The objection as regards the inscriptions that they were engraved upon the statue now considered to be that of Memnon, because formed of softer materials, may be met by the more plausible question, why is no inscription, referring to the sound emitted by the statue of Memnon, engraved upon the neighbouring

statue, which is made of the *same soft stone* ? I must refer, those who wish for a more explicit solution of this *vexata questio*, to a paper by General Minutoli, published in the supplement to No. 103 of the Prussian *Staats zeitung* for the year 1844, where the opinions of all authors of note who have touched upon this subject are brought collectively and cleverly into review. The result of this investigation corresponds in its essential points with my opinion, which is also that most generally adopted.

The pedestals on which the statues rest, are almost wholly covered by black alluvial soil, and on close investigation, the highest point to which the Nile has risen, in modern times, proves to be seven feet and eight inches above the pavement of the Dromos which formerly led to the colossus; while the sandy soil beneath the pavement proves that, at the time of the formation of these statues the Nile, had never penetrated so far. Hence we may readily conclude that the bed of the river must have risen considerably within the last three or four thousand years and that innumerable treasures of art might be found beneath the soil it has washed up during that period of time. The statues, which with their

bases formerly stood on a dry sandy soil, inaccessible to the waters of the Nile, now look down on four changes which take place at their feet within the year. During this term, they either rise from a dark, swampy ground, or from the midst of green fields or golden ears of corn, or lastly, from an immeasurable waste of waters; and in this latter aspect, they perhaps present the most beautiful view.

Many ruins of other gigantic statues, columns, etc, with tall heaps of rubbish, extending to the mountains in the west, warrant us, as I before observed, in concluding that a large temple formerly stood on this spot, to which the two statues of the kings formed the entrance, and this was undoubtedly the true Memnonium, as Amenophytes the third, whose rings the columns bear, most certainly was the Memnon of the Romans, and not Sesostris, as some contend, that personage having been brought forward from the fabulous halo of departed times, and traditionary lore for an honor to which Rhamses the great has higher claims, as Champollion has clearly proved.

I returned to the palace of the latter, which extending to a distance of about one thousand two hundred paces, in a north-

westerly direction from the colossal statues, verges on the mountains. Immediately behind the half dilapidated Pylones, lies the largest and most beautiful colossus in Egypt, formed of red granite ; it must have been almost as difficult to demolish this statue without the aid of powder, as it was to transport the enormous mass of stone from Assam to its present site ; for, according to Wilkinson's calculation, it must have weighed, when entire, about five thousand cwt. All that remains of this astonishing work of art, representing the great king himself, is a proof of most elaborate workmanship, and retains a very high polish. The head presents itself unfortunately as a formless mass, one ear, a foot in length, only remaining intact. In as good preservation is the ring or the crest of the king, on the left upper arm. Several other statues of porphyry and granite lying scattered around are quite headless, for the heads have unfortunately been very recently carefully amputated and transported to cabinets of antiquities belonging to the consuls, a species of demolition one must deplore meeting with in every shape and on every side, and which is far more destructive than the barbarism of the natives, in as much as it is carried on more systematically, and the

best is, with the eye of the connoisseur, selected as a sacrifice. Many of these gentlemen have extended their campaigns of depredation for several months and even years in Thebes, and have constructed residences for this purpose, under the protection of the rocks, some of which still exist and are yet made use of. The Viceroy has, however, latterly put a stop to this nuisance in a degree but much too late. The orders are however so stringent to the petty thieves, that during my sojourn of four days in the neighbourhood, not one object of the most trivial kind was offered on me for sale. This circumstance is, however, in some degree explained by my travelling with boats and with the suite of Mehemet Ali, and on that account they may have feared being betrayed.

It is remarkable that the regal colossus, as the pedestal, which is still standing, clearly proves, for close to it lies the Torso on its back, did not occupy the centre of the court, but stood isolated at the side of the entrance without any trace of a companion. The Egyptians prove themselves not to have been slaves to symmetry in their architecture, and the palace in question presents some most remarkable deviations from its laws. Without

entering into a circumstantial description of the palace, I shall merely mention that the visiter enters by two courts (exclusive of the first court) whose covered cloisters represent colossal Caryatides of Osiris, with the features of Rhamses, and by the ruins of two gates of black granite, into a large state-hall, originally supported by forty eight columns, only thirty six of which now remain, with an azure roof, studded with small stars of gold. On the shafts of the columns, which are densely covered with engraved and painted images, there is a bronze-coloured figure of Rhamses, of which Champollion has taken a cast in plaster, and the column still bears the disfiguring traces of this operation. The choice was very excellent, for the character of the face and figure, "every inch of which looks the king," favours the presumption that it is a true portrait, for it quite agrees with the idea one would form in imagination of the youthful conqueror, and the highly accomplished hero, who from love of the arts engaged in the most colossal undertakings, and strove to accomplish what had never been done before him even with our preconceived idea of the Alexander of Egypt.

Only two of the other halls exist at present,



one of which, according to Champollion, contained the famous library, as the chief figures on the walls represent the goddess Sakhm, "the presiding deity of the sciences," and Thoth, the inventor of letters and the arts. The edifice, combining temple with palace, gradually ascends the hill, for which purpose steps lead from compartment to compartment. Above the columns, saloons and halls, there was formerly a second story, of which a few walls and windows are now only extant. This superstructure, probably, served the purpose of a residence and sleeping apartments for the royal family, whilst the lower compartments were probably dedicated to festive occasions, or for the residence of the king himself.

The most interesting part of the whole appeared to me the various representations of the deeds and battles of the founder, which are on a gigantic scale, and cover several of the high walls of the palace ; four of these large paintings are in tolerable preservation as regards the brilliancy of the various colours.

Mr. Wilkinson very justly observes, that on viewing these pictures we are instantly reminded of the Iliad, and imagine that we see

representations of the Trojan war before us ; he is even of opinion that Homer may have borrowed matter for his immortal poem, from these compositions.

There is indeed, in these representations, a life, diversity and richness of composition which is by no means inferior to the antique, and leads us to forget the singular peculiarities of the Egyptian style of art which has adopted certain types, not only for gods and men in fixed and continually recurring positions, but for animals also, especially for war horses, which, although they exhibit a slight deviation from the truth of nature, are nevertheless conceived and executed in a very imposing manner.

There is an extraordinary effect in one of these pictures where the victorious Rhamses is represented bending forward in his chariot, like the direful Achilles, shooting his murderous arrows to a distance, and driving a number of other chariots before him over the plains, whose drivers, in their attempt to gain a fort in the vicinity, are plunged into the river, or captured by the pursuing troops, and cruelly cut to pieces.

Other pictures represent infantry in camp, the storming of towns, triumphal processions

&c., combined with religious processions, the latter, however, separated from the former and placed above the battlepieces.

M. Rossellini's perfect engravings represent, however, all this more accurately than I can explain it, and I must refer my readers to them, although I must at the same time observe that I know of no work which does perfect justice to the Egyptian works of art, as regards their artistic value and correct colouring. On my second visit to Thebes I shall again recur to this subject.

From this place we took a southern direction towards a hill crowned by the ruins of a coptic village, towering above the walls of whose huts were seen two temples and a palace of a yellow colour.

To the first of these temples the Romans have added some courts, and during the reign of the Ethiopian dynasty in Egypt, the king, *Toraka* or *Tiraka*, appears to have contributed to the building; it is of middling size, and filled with charming details, but it is far surpassed by the palace temple of the fourth Rhamses, where we are first introduced to Egyptian architecture in its gigantic proportions, in which it exceeds every other style of building. The interior, regal pavilion

whence a Dromos leads to the temple itself, not only inspires one with a high idea of the pomp, but of the most *recherché* elegance and grace of this epoch, but appeared to me to be the very beau ideal of a private residence of the Great. The pictorial representations adhere less strictly to the religious style, for we see the king in the midst of his harem served by his women, and presented by them with flowers and fruits, while on the external walls the terrific picture of the victorious Osiris is represented with a battle-axe, holding his enemies together by the hair in the form of the hundred headed Briareus and casting them down. Colossal lions' heads frown in the form of water conduits from the walls as in gothic edifices, and many other circumstances in this building recal gothic architecture to the mind ; thus the battlements of the outer walls, which are formed of shields placed in juxta-position, have a very superb appearance.

A beautiful chamber, with many pleasing representations and windows of various forms richly decorated, and above which, soar coloured eagles or vultures on an azure ground, is in a very perfect state of preservation.

The chief window looks towards the gate of

the temple, sixty feet in height, and affords a view through the courts to its extreme end. Gigantic Pylones (pyramidal turrets, which rise by the side of the chief gate, and are in size, twice as broad as the gate) covered with images, surround the red granite gate by which we enter into the first court, the right corridor of which is bordered by so-called Osiris pilasters, the other by columns with Lotus capitals.\*

Wilkinson, whose accurate and deep researches must be gratefully acknowledged by every traveller, but who is incapable of shaking off his all English prejudices and orthodox trifling, cannot rest contented with the want of symmetry, which shocks him everywhere in Egypt, but has invented a word for the purpose of accusing the Egyptians of *Symmetrophobia*. Religious scruples give him still greater troubles, and he goes so far as to arrange

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\* They are generally called so although another plant appears to have served as a pattern ; the true plant, however, has not been ascertained with certainty by any of our antiquarians.

officially the whole chronology of the dynasty of Egyptian kings in a certain degree against his own private views, in such a manner and as that it may not come into too striking a collision with the chronological calculations of the bible ; he even interpolates a whole treatise to endeavour, with much labour, to bring an opinion which appears to contradict the prophecies of Eze-kiel in unsatisfactory accordance with them.

It is really a great pity to see a grave and learned critic disturbed in his researches by such follies. In our times, now that there is no longer any truly positive faith which we shall have to remodel from new materials, we ought not to deprive ourselves of the sole profit remaining to us—I mean that which is to be derived from an essentially critical spirit, which can soar so far above antiquated prejudices of every description as that it can respect them as things of historic truth once necessary and long since past, but regards every endeavour to reinstate them as articles of orthodox faith, as vain and morbid attempts.

That which I like still less about Mr. Wilkinson's book, is his English injustice towards Champollion. Although he cannot avoid acknowledging, with the whole of the educated world, in set phrases, his great

merit, he endeavours to insinuate that it was Dr. Young, and the English, who had broken the ice towards deciphering the hieroglyphics, and who had by their "prior discoveries," given the hints upon which Champollion had based his further discoveries, which is saying about as much as that the inventor of the tea-kettle is more deserving of credit than the inventor of the steam engine. But it is in itself a very erroneous assertion, for the essential discovery, that of the phonetic element in hieroglyphic writing is solely due to Champollion, and this discovery alone renders a systematic analysis of them possible, and has given us better information concerning them in a few years, than all the endeavours of the learned for centuries before.\* In a subsequent part of his work, Mr. Wilkinson obscurely hints that he does not consider

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\* Young, as it is well known, always contended that hieroglyphic writing was figurative or symbolic and that the demotic text of the tables at Rosetta, consisted only of signs for ideas "excepting" at most he adds "those few groups containing Greek names."

himself much less than a second Champollion, (vide page 55, 56, and 57), although for form sake, he wishes not be accused of such arrogance, for he is pleased that in his researches he has frequently come to the same conclusions as M. Champollion, "although he never stood in any connexion with him."

This can mean nothing else but that he has never seen nor corresponded with him, but certainly not that he was unacquainted with Champollion's discoveries, without the assistance of which it is one hundred to one that Mr. Wilkinson would, in spite of his own successful researches, and the "early discoveries" of Dr. Young, wander about feeling his way in the same vague obscurity as regards the sacred writings of the Egyptians, in which the whole of Europe was enveloped before the discoveries of Champollion. Give honor to whom honor is due! But I return to our temple and its unsymmetrical court.

Well, then, I am pleased with the symmetrophobia of ancient Egyptian architecture, to which it owes a great portion of its effect and diversity. The Greeks and ancient Italians frequently laid symmetry aside; but sterling artists will never infringe its laws in a clumsy manner, so as to offend the eye by a



total want of harmony of parts, whereas the most accurate symmetry, if the proportions be wrong, will always discover the bungler, and the whole of modern Europe, but England more especially, can shew thousands of the most ridiculous specimens in this respect. The walls of the corridor in the court under consideration are three parts in ruins, and covered with hieroglyphics engraved on them, five inches deep. They are all coloured, as are, also, the basso relievos on the pilasters and columns.

Passing through a second pair of Pylones and a richly decorated gate of granite, we reach the second court, which is, fortunately, less encumbered with ruins. No man, with any feeling for the sublime, can enter this gate without astonishment. The dimensions of the open space which we now observe only amount to one hundred and twenty-two, or one hundred and twenty-three feet, for the Egyptians used to form small spaces, but large buildings, whilst we follow the converse of the rule ; but this small space is surrounded by a perystyle of immense masses, consisting in the east and west, of five columns ; in the north and south, of eight quadrangular pilasters, with caryatides representing Rhamses the Fourth, in the form

of Osiris. Behind the most northern of these colossal pillars, fronting the gate, is a corridor with still more gigantic columns, with a blue ceiling, covered with golden stars, whence immense eagles stretch their black and yellow wings. The proportions may be in some degree partially judged of when I mention that the ventriculated columns, with beautifully formed mortices, measure, a little above their base, twenty-three feet in circumference.

The vivid colours of the several hundred images, covering the shafts of the columns and the high terminal wall where the great gods are enthroned, are in tolerable preservation, as well as the architrave enclosing the court, and the gaudy, projecting capital of the entire building, which produces in all the Egyptian temples a peculiar, but very grand effect. The dedication of the temple is represented on the architrave, and Wilkinson (probably with Champollion's assistance) read from the hieroglyphics that the King had decorated the *adytum*, or sanctuary) with silver and precious stones, in addition to its architectural embellishments. Many of the festive processions are very superb and highly instructive as regards the information they afford respecting ancient customs and representations. Among

other subjects, there is a coronation, from which ceremony birds are seen flying away to the right and left, to proclaim it in all corners of the world, an office at present more rapidly performed by the newspapers. Champollion and Wilkinson describe all this minutely, as well as the large and magnificent sculpturings on the outer walls of the temple, representing a number of battles and victories, by land and sea, gained by armies marching in divisions like regularly disciplined troops, over legions of routed enemies, with scenes representing the capture of prisoners whose hands are cut off, whilst a secretary standing near takes down their numbers, with triumphal processions and sacrifices, in honour of victory, &c., sufficient to afford matter for research for months, and all depicting Rhamses the Third or Fourth, as a conqueror, quite as successful as his great ancestor, Sesostris. Under one of the paintings, representing his return to Egypt, the following address, to his troops, is inscribed :—

“ Abandon yourselves to pleasure ; let it elate you to the heavens ! The foreigners are overthrown. The dread of my name has come over them, and fear has filled their hearts.

Like a lion I have opposed them, I have pursued them like a hawk, and destroyed their guilty souls. I have traversed their rivers and burned their fortresses. I am a wall of brass to Egypt. Thou, my father, Ammon-Ra, hast ordered it, and I have followed the barbarians, and have traversed all parts of the earth as conqueror, until the world at last receded from my footsteps. My arm subdued the Kings of the earth, and my foot trod upon nations."

You see that the conquerors of old were quite as religious as our modern heroes, and never forgot their *Te Deum* after their butchery. Some persons are of opinion that this king penetrated to the Caspian sea, and to the Oxus ; but this it would be a difficult matter to prove.

Two other courts of this colossal palace-temple are quite buried in ruins, and nothing of them remains visible but the right external wall, filled with magnificent sculpture, through which the Christians afterwards broke, without consideration, twelve gates, and to give a specimen of their art, chiselled a number of small crosses into the walls. The whole of the temple is, moreover, covered by the more modern ruins of the coptic village, but with a thorough removal of the rubbish, and by tearing

away those disgraceful additions, the magnificent building would, no doubt, shew itself in most places, in good preservation, and the whole effect of its once imposing grandeur might be restored. From the platform, to which steps of gentle ascent lead, we have an extensive view of the wide space which ancient Thebes occupied on both sides of the Nile. To the right and close to us, we observe at first the remains of high embankments like the shores of a large, artificial sea, perhaps the same over which the dead were conveyed. Prokecsch erroneously takes these dams for the ruins of a circumvallation of the town; but nowhere else in its circumference over an extent of several miles, sufficiently well defined by the many ruins, can a trace of such an enclosure be detected. A rich extent of meadow land joins the dams through which the Nile is seen to flow, emerging from a cycle of blue mountains, behind which, at an unknown distance, its mysterious source lies concealed. In the East, we see before us, the colossal statues of Memnon, which at this distance maintain their awful, supernatural effect; and behind them, on the other side of the river, the gigantic ruins of Luxor and Karnak rise, towering above all, sur-

rounded by a forest, to whose margin the bold outlines of the Arabian mountains stretch. Towards the north, the ruins of the temple of Gourneh, described on a former occasion, and those of the Rhamsejum, with the desolate and bleached Necropolis extend along the Lybian ranges, the Nile again making its appearance in the panorama, surrounded, as before, by green fields, until the earth seems to vanish and merge into the heavens, which casting their blue and white cloak over the desert, removes it from the view of man ; but yet they are incapable of placing a limit to his imagination.

We returned to the magnificent court of the temple to take an excellent breakfast, and then explored some of the dark compartments by torch-light, which, even in these places, where the light of the sun is excluded, are decorated with an incredible number of entaglios, or basso relievos ; they were enveloped in obscurity, for the dark, mysterious ceremonies of the priests, and probably also for their abuse, and not without good reasons. In one of these chambers I observed a sphinx, with a horse's head, the only specimen of the kind I met with in Egypt.

It is scarcely observable, on account of the

gigantic dimensions of this structure, that the Copts had built a church in this court, although the barbarous, diminutive columns are still standing, for they quite dwindle into insignificance before the gigantic edifice around them, and do not cause more disturbance of its effect than a fly lighting on the nose of a giant. For this day we had still only the inspection of the Necropolis in reserve. The first object which here rivets our attention is a small, but very elegant and gorgeous temple of Isis, built, I believe, by the beautiful Cleopatra, and decorated like a boudoir. In one of its three dark chambers Apis is represented riding in a large boat, a picture which gives a very good idea of the construction and arrangements of the vessels in those times. It is a pity that an abominable wall of Nile mud, erected in more recent times, surrounds this elegant building. After traversing desolate caves, for about a quarter of an hour, and passing by innumerable catacombs, we arrive at the tombs of the Queens and great personages, where we meet with many representations from ordinary social life, such as dances, concerts, hunting scenes of various animals, visits of foreign princes, meals, all kinds of trades, parties by water, fishing-

parties, and many other subjects. Several of the tombs of respectable private individuals appear in this respect more interesting than those of the Kings, which contain more sacred objects, and in devoting more time to their inspection, they will, undoubtedly, afford clues to much that is yet enveloped in doubt respecting the past times of Egypt. For instance, I think we may claim the honour of a solution of the very important question, whether the ancient Egyptians smoked ? for I believe that we observed a group of persons smoking from long pipes, and we also saw, in contradiction to the assertion of Herodotus, " That the Egyptians never ate pork," the representation of an undeniable roast sucking pig, on a dish. In a most remote niche you sometimes find two or three painted statues, probably portraits, of the interred, seated as large as life by the side of each other, quite like our wax figures, and with no greater pretensions to artistic merit. The most remarkable circumstance connected with them is, their unparalleled state of preservation, for some of them seem to have been only erected yesterday, although they have held the same position for three thousand years.



The neighbouring valley of Assasis, offers still grander palaces of tombs to the view, and traces of another large temple, in which broken lids of sarcophagi, dried bones, portions of mummies, wrappings. and pieces of the fine Egyptian linen, saturated with pitch, lie strewn about as on a field of battle.

One of the tombs at *Assasis*—the most of which belong to priests—is a regular labyrinth, and even of greater extent than any of the royal tombs of *Bab-el-Melech*. Its chambers, steps, corridors, and endless compartments, occupy an extent of two acres below the surface of the earth; and all these halls, buried in eternal obscurity, are covered, even in their most remote parts, with the most carefully executed specimens of sculpture; and are decorated with many hundred small but, elegant statues, which have been, unfortunately, wilfully destroyed—just as the walls have been blackened, from mere wantonness, by fire.

The sarcophagi have been robbed, and the deep wells in which they were sunk, are now empty, and a wall a foot in breadth, leads close by them, which is even dangerous to pass along.

The possessor of this splendid tomb, was named Petammass; he was a

distinguished priest, and his name is met with again on a granite gate of the small Temple of *Medinet Abú*, where he is mentioned as its founder. Both these works prove the wealth of private individuals in those times, who were able to execute undertakings which would appear almost too costly for our sovereigns at the present day.

We concluded our first day at Thebes, by ascending the rocks behind the temple we have just mentioned, and of which only one granite gate and a few chambers are extant, in order to overlook the country by the roseate light of the sun which was setting behind us. The expression "*roseate light*," is no metaphor, for on a cheerful evening the sun in Egypt imparts to all objects, even to the desert itself, a red tinge of such a subdued shade and such freshness of appearance, that no landscape in Europe (excepting, perhaps, that by Gropins) can give an adequate idea of it, and no painter would venture nor indeed would be able to give a faithful representation of it.

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The next day we devoted exclusively to the royal tombs, in the mountain valley of Bab-el-Melech, those astonishing, subterraneous

palaces, which, if not the grandest work of this extraordinary people, is certainly the most singular.

The road leading to them has something deeply imposing about it ; penetrating into the interior of the mountains, it leads through the turnings of a high ravine in the rocks, which alternately contracts and expands for more than two miles, but they never exceed a few hundred feet in breadth. All vegetation disappears here ; the desert has already commenced, consisting of rocks towering above each other, and millions would be offered in vain for a blade of grass of the size of a needle. But the gloomy and strangely shaped masses of stone seem to imitate the products of vegetation ; for some of them resembled mushrooms of rapid growth, some the stems of trees broken down by the storm, or a perforated block will look like petrified foliage, while the jagged surface of a dark abyss, with its dingy tints, assumes the appearance of the entangled brushwood or furze.

All these rocks, stones and sand hills are tinged with a reddish shade, as if the glare of some hidden fire shone upon them, an illusion kept up by the scorching heat which always prevails here. Above them is ex-

panded a dark blue, tranquil sky, without a trace of a passing cloud—for with a cessation of life, all motion has ceased also in the heavens. Colours only indicate life here, as in the marvellous tombs themselves, whose subterranean splendour will soon reveal itself to our view.

A pointed rock towers abruptly above all the rest, whence perpendicular walls of rocks, like ramparts, project, and below them may be seen some small, half covered entrances, leading to the rocky caves. Who would guess what is concealed beneath them, or dream that these plain, unsightly apertures, which were formerly totally hidden from the sight, by rubbish heaped purposely before them, should lead to palaces of darkness in the bosom of the earth, which display a world of elaborate workmanship of magic splendour and the most cultivated art, although never intended to be scanned by human eye. This is certainly the only example of works executed by man at an enormous expence, and like those of eternal nature, for their own sake and without a thought whether any living being would ever bestow upon them the applause they merit. They were dedicated solely to death, to night and eternal obscurity.

Succeeding generations, however, of amateurs and plunderers could not, from curiosity and avarice, leave them to the peace they desired. Everything was turned over, desecrated and plundered by one nation after another, then left at rest, for centuries, and forgotten, then subsequently re-opened, and this has been the mode of proceeding down to the present day.

And yet, it is a question whether everything that lies concealed in these spacious caverns has been found, for Strabo mentions forty royal tombs in this district, and at present only seventeen are known, which have all suffered more or less. The tomb discovered by Belzoni, although once before imperfectly opened, has remained intact as regards the chief points, and is on account of its inestimable state of preservation, the most remarkable of all. In the few years which have elapsed since Belzoni's fortunate discovery, the partial destruction which has been effected by *virtuosi* has been so rapid, that if not arrested this tomb will soon cease to merit distinction from the rest. I do not so much cry shame upon the destroyers for that which they have taken away—for temptation is great, and there is no proprietor—as on the unparalleled barbarism with which they have broken whole columns

and images, to take away a single painted head, or rendered a whole wall with the most valuable hieroglyphic writing useless, and spoiled its effect to get away a few of the most prominent figures; broken down the most beautiful paintings and embellishments covering the projections of the chambers, to see if anything were concealed behind them; wilfully scraped and scratched off the most valuable paintings and works of art, to analyse the colours or the stucco on which they are executed, or what is still worse, chosen the most admirable groups and most charming figures to perpetuate their cursed names, which in brutal barbarity they have thus placed on a pillory of disgrace. Stoic philosophy is absolutely required in meeting continued repetitions of this nuisance, not to allow them to spoil our enjoyment of these charming and marvellous works of art.

To reach some of these palaces of the dead, we have difficulty in mounting steep and high steps; to get to others, you have literally to roll over stones and rubbish; some of them, however, are of gradual descent, and offer at once (even by the light of day which penetrates through the ample entrances) a series of compartments, and high and splendidly embel-

lished gates, extending in the distance in straight lines, and resembling the state apartments in the chateaux and palaces of our princes.

Generally speaking, a number of other chambers and galleries are arranged at either side of these, but the gigantic granite Sarcophagus of the kings, the outer shell of a more costly one in which the body lay, usually stands in the largest and most richly decorated chamber at the extreme end. Several of these have been carried away, and those that remain are all broken and robbed of their contents. Most of these splendid palaces of the dead if brought to light and removed to Europe, would appear very desirable residences for our newly elected constitutional ministers, or for the ambassadors at our various capitals, for there are none of those narrow fox-burrows through which we have often to creep on our hands and feet in the pyramids, nor any of those miserable dark holes, too politely called chambers, to be observed here, where all is grandeur, convenience and embellishment. Whilst in our state apartments, unmeaning silk or paper hangings cover our walls, on which a few mediocre paintings or engravings are hung in gilt frames; the walls,

ceilings, columns and pillars, form here a continued series of paintings and sculpturings of great artistic value in the greatest variety of dimension, colouring and composition, and all these pictures, which delight the eye and the imagination, constitute at the same time a *language*, a verbal and symbolical expression of the most varied and perhaps most sublime ideas, which would agreeably appeal to our understanding as well as our imagination and feelings, if we only knew how to decipher them.

Grotesque embellishments, such as we are accustomed to, are not wanting, and the originality and elegant taste, but above all, the skilful adjustment of colours---an art in which the ancient Egyptians excelled more than any other nation---is in these designs very conspicuous. The effects thus produced, open a new field to the art of colouring, and I can foresee the time when not only artists and decorative painters, but the *commis voyageurs* of our manufacturers, to whose province this species of art belongs, will travel to Thebes to perfect their studies in the royal tombs, for the printing of calicos, gingham, etc. I gave a muslin manufacturer at Cairo a hint to impart to his designs which he had hitherto



obtained from Elberfeld, a more national character, and he seized it with so much ardour that we may perhaps soon see our taste, which is unfortunately rapidly degenerating, even as regards our prints, improved by the good example derived from *modern* and *ancient* Egypt.

Mr. Wilkinson has had the royal tombs numbered, which is a great convenience to travellers, and in offering a few remarks on some of them I shall follow his enumeration.

No. 2, the place of sepulture of Rhamses III, the founder of the large temple at Medinet-Abu described yesterday, appears to me to have been one of the most splendid, and as regards sculpture and painting most elaborate of these tombs, but it has unfortunately suffered severely by the water which has penetrated to it, and by the dampness of the atmosphere thus caused. The springs which are now stopped up, may be yet distinctly detected at the entrance. As it scarcely ever rains in this country, it is difficult to account for the source of this water.

The length of the chambers, galleries and colonnades of this tomb amounts to four hundred and five feet, with a slight fall of thirty one feet in the entire distance. A number of small, lateral compartments, past which the water flowed, are fortunately in a better state of pre-

servation, for the representations they contain give us the most interesting information on the manners and customs of the ancient Egyptians, of their arms, furniture, utensils, instruments and other miscellaneous objects. In one of these chambers we observe a representation of all the vessels of the Nile then in use; one furnished with large, quadrangular sails, and decorated with the present French national colours, and with the most gorgeous embellishments. In another we must admire the elegance of the ancient Egyptian furniture.

Many of the *fauteuils*, bedsteads and couches, which perfectly resemble our modern *chaises longue*—we might imagine to be copied from a journal of fashions published in London or Paris.

They nearly all bear the appearance of having been constructed of wood, sometimes of metal, and are frequently seen decorated with bronze, and covered with rich stuffs. Equally tasteful are several patterns of porcelain vases, ewers and basins, baskets, carpets, and coverings of leopard skins, etc.

In the armoury room, some blue blades may be observed, which are calculated to raise a doubt, as to the assertion that the Egyp-

tians were unacquainted with steel and iron, and manufactured their arms from bronze.

Kitchens and cellars, with their various duties and implements, are depicted to us, with the most minute accuracy.

We may see slaughtering, cooking, roasting, and the bottling of wines, etc. The various products of the country, fill another compartment; and an adjoining chamber is dedicated to musical instruments, where two blind singers may be seen accompanying themselves on harps, differing very little in shape from those at present in use; agriculture and gardening, form the scenes in another room.

In each of these compartments a tomb was found let into the ground, whence Mr. Wilkinson forms the ingenious hypothesis, that the respective household servants of the king, whose occupation corresponded with the representations on the wall, lie interred in these tombs.

The external sarcophagus of granite belonging to the king, is missing in the hall of this catacomb, which is totally destroyed by the damp. The sarcophagus was taken away by Mr. Salt. It is very questionable, whether the kings ever were interred in these ostensible sarcophagi; their use was, perhaps, only to

mislead, with the more certainty, as to the place of sepulture of these sacred remains; and, it is not at all unlikely, that all these extensive catacombs, contained, carefully concealed, recesses, so skilfully and solidly removed from view, that chance alone, may, some day, lead to the discovery of one of them. The tomb discovered by Belzoni, No. 17, gives something of certainty to this supposition.

This tomb, which, on account of the incredible state of preservation in which it has remained, affords, undoubtedly, the most gratifying sight of all; but it is far more difficult of access. In order to reach it, we have to mount a dilapidated flight of twenty-four steps, covered with rubbish, the approach to which, Belzoni found concealed by large masses of stone heaped before it. To ascend these perpendicular steps is a matter of great difficulty in the oppressive heat, but when our task is finished, we enter a gallery nineteen feet in length, and nine in breadth; then a flight of steps, of the same height as the former, leads down into a corridor, thirty feet in length, through two gates, following closely upon each other, into a hall fourteen feet by twelve. When Belzoni had penetrated thus far, he found a deep well, which appeared to be the termination of

the whole structure. All the walls were covered with continuous paintings most elaborately executed, so that no further entrance could be detected. But Belzoni, who seemed created for this kind of undertaking, and who was as matter of fact in nature as Champollion was imaginative, has furnished us with more important disclosures respecting Egypt, than any former traveller, and was not in this instance to be deterred from further research. A crack in the wall, and a hollow sound, gave him a hint as to the direction to follow, and by aid of an old stem of a palm-tree as a crow-bar, he paved a way through the pictures of the gods (in this case a warranted proceeding) and the pleasure and astonishment of the persevering discoverer may be imagined when the intact splendour of colours, of a chamber twenty-six feet in diameter, met his view, by the glare of the torch-light, through the breach he had effected by force. Four massive pillars support this richly ornamented chamber, which joins a second of similar dimensions. If the first delight by the splendour with which it is finished off; the second is of still greater interest to us, because it is not completed, thus introducing us to the technical usages of

the Egyptian artists, and giving us the highest idea of their skill, correctness, and boldness in drawing.

The mode of proceeding in this Egyptian world of casts, appears generally to have been this : the sculptor first drew the sketch of his subject in slight outlines, on the polished wall, with red ochre ; the draughtsman then traced out all the figures, in sharp, black lines, with truly astonishing boldness and firmness, whereupon they were converted by the sculptor into bas-reliefs, and lastly, coloured by the painter.

We now again descend a flight of steps with raised corridors on either side, and arrive, after inspecting different chambers of various dimensions, at a great hall, thirty feet square, supported by six columns.

All the chambers are so filled with the most admirable specimens of sculpture and painting, that it would be a work of several months to inspect them thoroughly, and they have all retained their original beauty, excepting where they have been destroyed by the hand of man.

From the hall we enter a vaulted chamber, thirty feet in length and nineteen feet in

breadth, in whose centre stood, in an outer case of granite, the famous sarcophagus of oriental alabaster, which was however found to be empty. Immediately adjoining this is a staircase, formerly covered with brick work, leading to a gallery descending 150 feet into the centre of the rocks, where it is now dilapidated.

It is probable that this passage communicated with Thebes, and that its restoration will lead to the most astonishing results.

Mehemet Ali is alone capable of executing this undertaking, but it would be difficult to persuade him to it.

These things must remain for a more advanced state of civilization in Egypt, when notwithstanding the spoliation and destruction of centuries, a rich field of discovery will be opened in the bowels of the earth.

This tomb is one hundred and eighty feet in depth to the site of this dilapidated passage, and its horizontal length amounts to three hundred and twenty feet.

According to Champollion it contained, or still contains, in some secret spot, the body of the King Osiris, the father of the great Rhamses, as the long series of hieroglyphics

in the first corridor, and the royal rings at the entrance indicate.\*

Among the most remarkable paintings in the first hall are the graphic representations of various nations, among which the Jews are not to be mistaken, in spite of Wilkinson's contradiction, although it is probable that they here represent a large portion of the inhabitants of the earth, for the Arabs appear to be only Jews on horseback.

The Egyptians excelled greatly in the art of characterising, and a humourous inclination to caricature may be frequently detected in their compositions.

I observed, for instance, a scene of a decapitation, in which the executioner, leaning over his victim, had the position and sentimental expression of a father blessing his child, while he is about to send it into the other world; another of his colleagues, cut so furiously with his broad sword, that three culprits, he had already dispatched, were still quietly kneeling,

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\* The sarcophagus of alabaster which Champolion removed from this tomb was found empty.



and not a trace of their heads could be discovered near them, as if they had flown so far away, that it was impossible to depict them in the same picture.

The mysteries of procreation are very singularly treated, and beneath the subject a Frenchman has written some very coarse and cynical remarks.

Some of the paintings appear to refer obscurely to human sacrifices, and others to mysteries at present not at all understood. Many of the larger groups, representing for the most part kings offering sacrifices to enthroned Gods, are of such transcendent merit that they would do honor to the most celebrated artists of the best age of art, and I was more especially astonished at the diversity of expression observed in the countenances which these painters understood how to impart to their faces, for notwithstanding the sameness in the position of the heads, which are always depicted *en profile*, the *contour* of the features is always varied with a fulness of outline worthy of Raphael.

Independent of the high artistic merit of these works, the subdivisions and arrangements of the chambers, the one totally differing from the other in this respect, and the

tasteful choice of colours even when considered as mere ornaments or decorations is calculated with wonderful precision and sagacity, so that the very hieroglyphic text serves at the same time as the most elegant embellishment of the chambers.

I am convinced that a person with no ideas of the laws of art would leave these chambers with a very agreeable impression, produced solely by the pleasing decorations and charming effect of the colouring. Each compartment has its peculiar, characteristic features. For instance, in the large hall the pictures are less gaudy, and the ground of fretted gold; in the lateral chambers the ground is white, with the most diversified and gorgeous display of colours; in the chamber of the sarcophagus the ground is black, with faint yellow, and redish paintings, relieved in certain places by the glowing colours of the broad, outstretched wings of the royal eagles.

The number of figures and strange objects of all descriptions in this latter chamber, their mysterious rarity, and their faint appearance on the black ground, produce an indescribable effect, which must have been more awful when the transparent alabaster sarcophagus stood (perhaps illuminated) in the centre of the chamber.

Before the sarcophagus was removed to England the following experiment, as my old guide told me, was tried: several torches were placed in its interior, while the rest of the chamber remained in darkness, but all the other rooms were brilliantly illuminated by torches, suspended by ropes in festoons from their walls—thus producing a *chambre ardente*, the like of which will rarely be seen again.

What pomp must have attended the ceremonies celebrated by the Egyptian priests in this place, whence they probably entered Thebes by a subterraneous passage, to do the last honours to the royal corpse, and then to conceal it from the view of the profane until its resurrection, after several thousand years.

I have already spoken of the destruction caused by the “*virtuosi* ;” may Heaven, and the subterranean gods preserve these inestimable ruins of ancient grandeur for the future, and may the pilferers, at least, go more conscientiously and economically to work than heretofore.

With this pious wish I conclude my description, and if it has already appeared too long to the reader, I will endeavour to make up for my error by mentioning very cursorily the remainder of the royal tombs.

After inspecting half a dozen of them we selected for our dining room, one, which may be reckoned among the grandest, as regards its proportions.

Whilst we were at dinner my Dragoman, Giovanni, occupied himself in making preparations for a surprise, for when we had finished our meal, and penetrated, by a gentle declivity, into the interior, we observed, at a distance, the enormous sarcophagus of granite, the only one of the kind at Bab-el-Melech in a state of preservation, with an inscription on its centre, composed of letters in black oil painting, an ell in length.

It was with a shudder that I decyphered my own name on the coffin, above which a coronet had been painted in haste, together with the mystic symbol of my creed. If I had been a little more superstitious than I really am, this would have appeared to me a very dismal omen, as it was, laughter overcame my annoyance, but I begged to have the "unlucky inscription effaced."

It was only possible to rub out the coronet; the name resisted all our endeavours, and there remained nothing for me to do, but solemnly to beg the old regent, Rhamses the fifth, to whom the grave belonged, not to suffer me to

be punished, because my name was so indecorously engraved on his royal sarcophagus, as it was really not my fault.

We finished in the afternoon, while the heat was excessive, the examination of the whole twelve, and returned in the cool of the evening, and for the most part on foot across the romantic rocks, where there were perpendicular abysses, several hundred feet deep, and views extending to a wide distance.

We had now seen the wonders of Thebes on the left shore of the Nile.

It was not until night, that the peaceful bark received us poor exhausted mortals — nearly dead with thirst — under its protecting roof, and conveyed us gently, through the pale moonlight, to the right shore.

I will defer what I have to say respecting the tombs of the kings, for my second visit on my return, in order not to tire the reader, nor to sin against the historical order of my journey; for, I have treated it historically, because it is not my intention to write a compendium, but to give the true history of what I lived to see, and what occurred; and, to leave on the mind of the reader, a lively *summary* impres-

sion of events, in the chronological order in which they occurred.

Great things had passed before our eyes, during the last few days ; but, greater still were in store for us !

To Luxor's and Karnack's wonders, the proudest spirit must bow with reverence. It seemed as if we were looking on the works of semi-gods ; for the present generation is unequal to their execution.

Whilst in the usual creations of mankind, the imagination always soars higher, it can, here, scarcely be said to come up to the reality. I felt at once delighted with, and humiliated by a grandeur—the possibility of which, I had never even dreamt of—a perfection, which, sporting with those immense masses, at the same time, combines with its exuberant fancies, the most noble, and beautiful conceptions of art, as well as the most astonishing technical superiority in execution.

The palace of Luxor, has not its equal in the world ; and yet it appears insignificant compared to the gigantic monuments of Karnack. How many thousands of years must have elapsed, before a nation could raise itself to such a degree of civilization, power, and art ; and

what a peculiar direction must this civilization have taken, which, in times unknown to history, constructed the pyramids! and, fifteen hundred years before our era, produced the wonders of Thebes.

And, nevertheless, we see, that, when art had reached the highest degree of perfection, of which it was capable, it stood still, either from wisdom or necessity, and found means to preserve for many centuries, that which it had attained by an established style, and unalterable rules which embraced not only art, but life itself, and from which, no deviation was permitted; and, perhaps, by that very stagnation, managed to prevent that incessant seeking after unattainable perfection, that eternal discontent with existing things, which forms so striking a characteristic of our own times, and which, hitherto, seems, to have removed rather than increased its auxiliaries.

Progress of every kind, in nations, as well as individuals, has, no doubt, limits, which it cannot exceed. This point once reached, it can only be retained by means of some powerful influence; and, should this fail, it must resign itself to the retrograde movement common to all things.

He that seeks to rise higher and higher, and

is never satisfied with his position, will only sink the faster into that state of barbarism—which is not the barbarism of ignorance, but of over-knowledge and exhaustion. I do not, however, quite agree with the statement, that either one must advance or recede.

The history of nations, and even our own lives, teach us that, if not for ever, at least, for a time, a stationary condition is incident to our being ; but this is, however, only desirable when the highest possible point of individual cultivation has been reached.

Of course, there is, even in the highest degree of human attainment, much that is imperfect and faulty, in the absolute sense of the word ; and, therefore, imperfections can be shewn in Egyptian art, as well as in every other ; but its *perfection* within the possible reach of its career, and its long retention of that state, will always be a subject of the highest admiration, an astonishing picture of human greatness, in its most imposing form.

In order, however, to seize the real point of view, from which it ought to be looked upon, — and without which, it cannot be understood — I may be permitted to quote here, one of the cleverest, and most profound passages of



Champollion, the striking truth of which, cannot fail to be immediately felt.

The reader is no doubt aware that all the temples and royal palaces in Egypt were decorated internally as well as externally, partly with hieroglyphic writings, which formerly could be read by every well educated person, partly with representations from national history, partly also with anaglyphs or symbolic images designating abstract objects. These last, the complete solution of which is perhaps impossible, formed, most likely, the mysterious language of the priests, which was intelligible to the initiated only ; to the profane, however, they merely appeared as representations of gods and heros, surrounded by the attributes of reverential worship.

But even these allegorical paintings may have had a certain connection with the hieroglyphic writings. Both had a number of characters in common, and the symbolic signs in the hieroglyphic writing were of this class.\*

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\* For the information of those who are unacquainted with the subject, I add the following short explanation :

“ There were,” says Champollion, “ theoretical and material relations which connected the different parts of the general *graphic system* of the Egyptians. This extensive system, at once figurative, symbolic and phonetic, embraced, directly or indirectly all arts, which are founded on imitation.

The principle of these arts was conse-

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The Egyptians had four kinds of writing ; the hieroglyphic, which was peculiar to monuments, and was known to and understood by every person of education. It was composed of three elements, which could be amalgamated at will : (a) the figurative, or drawing of the precise thing to be expressed ; (b) the symbolic, where only an emblem peculiar to the object or nearly related to it, was made use of, as for Osiris, the Obelisk, or, if it became necessary to designate the Greek Jupiter, the eagle with the thunderbolt, or for Christ, if he had existed at that time, the cross &c. ; the phonetic, where images, also taken from nature or from human invention, were made to indicate the sounds of the language, in such a manner that each phonetic character represented the image of an object, which in the language of the Egyptians began with an initial,

quently by no means the same, as that which pervaded their development in Greece.

Egyptian art had not for its express object the representation of the beautiful forms of nature with the greatest possible fidelity, it aimed only at expressing a range of ideas peculiar to it, and giving lasting representations, not of mere forms only, but of men and things

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expressed by that hieroglyphic sign. Thus, for instance, if we were to imitate this method in our own language, the representation of a tiger, a trap, a table, and &c. would designate the letter (T.)

2. The writing of the priests, called the *hieratic*, which was simply an abbreviation of the hieroglyphics.

3. The *demotic*, an abbreviation of the hieratic, employed for daily use, and almost an alphabetical writing, in which the figurative and symbolic characters, with the exception of those designating the gods, almost entirely disappeared.

4. The allegorical figures, the *anaglyphs*, the only real, secret writing of the priests, in which persons could alone be initiated by them, and in which no doubt

The immense colossus as well as the smallest amulet, were both the established signs of an idea ; however perfect or inferior might be their execution, the chief object was always attained, as the perfection of form, although in later times gloriously accomplished,

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they have set down their most profound mysteries, concerning science, philosophy and religion ; there is little hope however, of our ever being able to decypher these characters with any degree of accuracy, while with hieroglyphics, on the contrary, such a result is no longer doubtful. Could we read the language of the anaglyphs we should very probably find in it the whole of the Genesis of Moses, the statements of which coincide so remarkably with the last geological discoveries, as to make it appear (unless indeed we were to assume with the believers, that it was dictated to him by God himself, which would make us suppose from its obscurities and partial errors, that God was not always correctly understood by Moses) that only a science cultivated for thousands of years could have imparted such knowledge, and consequently that Moses could only have obtained it from the Egyptian priests, in whose mysteries, according to all probability, he was deeply initiated.

was with them only a secondary consideration. In Greece, on the contrary, form was everything, and art was only pursued for its own sake. In Egypt it was only employed as a powerful medium for embodying thought.

The smallest ornament of Egyptian architecture has its own signification, and stands in direct connection with the idea, which lay at the bottom of the foundation of the whole building, whilst the decorations of Greek and Roman temples were too frequently only intended to flatter the eye, whilst they do not speak to the mind. Thus the spirit of the two nations shews itself in a totally different light. The graphic and the imitative arts with the Greeks soon took permanently separate directions, but in Egypt, the arts of writing, drawing, painting and sculpture always progressed in an equal degree towards one and the same end; and when we consider the individual state of each of these branches of art, and especially the destination common to all their productions, it might be justly said that they have only merged into one—that of *writing*. The temples, as is already indicated by their Egyptian denomination (god's abode) were, if I may so express myself, only colos-

sal and magnificent *representative characters* for divine habitations ; statues, likenesses of kings and courtiers, basso relievos, and paintings, which recalled the scenes of public as well as private life, may be classed as *figurative characters*, and the representations of gods, emblems of abstract ideas, allegorical ornaments and images, and lastly the long series of anaglyphs, were bound up in the most intimate manner with the symbolic principle of writing. This close connection of the fine arts with the graphic system of the Egyptians explains also the cause of the great simplicity, which, notwithstanding their high perfection in a particular line, characterized their paintings and sculptures. The imitation of physical objects so as to be distinctly recognised, sufficed for the proposed end ; a greater idealisation in the execution could add but little to the clearness of the intended expression, a wilful alteration in the form would even have confused it, as images and sculptures were only, and should only have been intended as mere *writing characters*, forming the elements of a wide range of ideas."

So much for Champollion ; without wishing to examine, whether the Egyptians were correct or not in their views of art, the fact of

their existence is not to be denied, any more than the results obtained by them, which, as we now see them before us, have not as a whole been surpassed in any other country. Yet these Egyptians were an essentially graphic nation, as we have also become, with this difference, that they, with a thousand picturesque characters, which embraced the whole realm of nature and mankind, cut into stone their history, laws, philosophy, in a word, *their life*; and for that purpose they either excavated rocks, and transformed these artificial caverns into palaces, or removed the rocks themselves, to place them elsewhere as palaces.

And on these gigantic monuments of past ages, we still peruse their *writings*, the characters of which we must at the same time admire as remarkable works of art, and feel anxious to decipher them as the organs of important ideas. As they were at one time intelligible to everybody, what universal civilization, knowledge, what a general taste for the beautiful must have been spread by such a system, among a people who could not pass any of their monuments, without beholding on them, as it were, the open leaves of a book of wisdom, science and history, rendered attractive by all that art, taste and splendour combined could offer to the eye.

*We* certainly write too, but with goose quills and on rags ; we too have our art, but it confines itself more or less to happy imitations of the ancients or of our own middle ages, and we have scarcely anything original to shew but the Daguerrotype, bronzes, figures of *papier maché*, galvanic gilding, and bank notes that cannot be imitated. The invention of the art of printing, no doubt, places us higher in the scale. We have books as numerous as the sands on the sea-shore ; compared to their quantity, at least, all the hieroglyphics of the Egyptians dwindle into nothing. Will our *books*, however, last longer than the Pyramids?

It is not impossible that they may do so, but they will require a great many *editions*, to prolong their existence for such a period. I must, however, return to my description.

One of the largest Moslem villages of Egypt stands amongst the ruins of the temple of Luxor, the pillars of which you see ranged before you half buried in the sand.

The Nile, close to whose shores the palace once stood, as the remains of a massive quay still attest, has, as if indignant at the near vicinity of a pauper settlement, taken its course a few hundred paces away from it.

As a prelude I took with the doctor a



moonlight walk, through the most colossal portion of the ruins, beginning under the colonnade of the middle court, the pillars of which, although more than half buried in sand, still measure at this height about thirty feet in circumference! Our guide, on this occasion, was a black Almeh, who occasionally beating her tamborine, danced lightly before us among the ruins—a strange, and yet not unpleasing contrast. After we had wandered about for some time between the houses, through narrow passages, and in the shade of palaces, sometimes with the right foot on past, and the left on present times, we at last, unexpectedly, issued from the interior by the entrance gate of Pylones, and suddenly found ourselves in the clear light of a full moon, among the mutilated colosses of Rhamses, and saw on our right the finest of the obelisks, which the French have robbed of its companion, rearing its tapering head to heaven like an arrow about to take its flight from the earth to the moon. This novel scene, with the outlines of the surrounding objects, doubled by the existing twilight, is one that will for ever remain engrafted upon my memory.

The next morning we commenced, on the same spot, a more systematic inspection.

The first observation that forced itself upon me, was one that has occurred to many others: viz. how much better the Egyptians understood architecture than we do, and how little we have been able to learn from them. The removal of the second obelisk from here, in order to place it in the centre of the great square of Louis Quinze, at Paris, which was attended with an enormous expense, is no slight proof of this latter assertion. The entrance of the temple at Luxor, is formed by two imposing Pylones of a hundred feet in height; close to the sides of the gate are placed two colosses of forty feet in height, and a few steps from it, and at about double the distance from the colosses to the Pylones, stood the two obelisks, of from eighty to ninety feet in height, one of which has been carried off. This close assemblage of monuments produces a most imposing effect, whilst the same objects dispersed and spread over a large surface, would be completely lost.

The Egyptians never erected an obelisk without a companion, any more than an isolated pillar; but least of all, would they have placed a single obelisk like this in the midst

of a large square, where it would only resemble an unmeaning pole, and spoil the appearance of the square, whilst the size of the latter would take away all its importance as a mass, and thus make the great appear artificially small. It is really the greatest pity, that for such an object the noble appearance of the temple entrance was so much weakened, for to destroy it entirely was impossible. The remaining obelisk, formed of the finest pink granite, is in an excellent state of preservation, excepting a trifling damage near the base, on two sides, and the hieroglyphics cut into it two inches deep, are acknowledged to be the most perfect of the kind executed even by the Egyptians. It would, in fact, be impossible to surpass this work, and in the present day it cannot be conceived how they managed to cut into this rocky granite, the most delicate and chastely executed figures with the same precision and facility, as our best sculptors cut into stone. A boy of eleven years of age offered, for the sum of one karie (an Egyptian coin of the value of two and a-half francs) to climb the obelisk by means of these hieroglyphics, and in fact performed this hazardous feat as far as two-thirds of the height, without experiencing the least difficulty ; but when he got thus far, he was blown

about so violently by the wind, that we promised him two *karie*, if he would immediately descend.

In order to obtain a distinct idea of the disposition and the plan of the temple, one ought to ascend to the top of the Pylones, although this is rather a troublesome task, on the dilapidated, narrow staircase, and afterwards on open blocks, where the visiter is obliged to jump from one stone to another. The view is, in every respect, worth the trouble, and the original constructor of this palace, Amenepht the Third (Memnon) could, from its turrets, behold the two colossal statues of himself, which stand on the opposite side of the river.

It is very interesting to try and trace the shape and extent of the ruins, in the labyrinth of the village, the houses of which, (very decent ones, by the bye, for Egypt) have singularly enough imitated the forms of the Pylones on a Lilliputian scale, in the dust of their mud bricks. More than a hundred of the old pillars still rear their heads amongst them, and one of the principal courts of the temple continues in a state of almost perfect preservation. I found several sculptures here of indescribable grandeur and beauty ; several

of the faces were of a delicacy and depth of expression which would have done credit to any European artist. These paintings date from the most flourishing period of Egyptian art. The decline of the arts begins to shew itself about the time of the reign of the later Pharaohs ; at that of the Ptolemies, it was already far advanced, and in the time of the Romans a caricature of it only remained.

The French were not contented, in their expedition to Luxor, with depriving the entrance of the temple of one of its most beautiful ornaments, but they have also desecrated the other extremity, by erecting a large house there, for which purpose a portion of the venerable pile has been fresh whitewashed. This house, also, excludes one of the most interesting portions of the temple from inspection : new walls are erected in the midst of the sanctuary, the vivid colours of the paintings are covered with mortar, with which the cracks are filled, to keep the draught out ; a *sanctum sanctorum* is converted into a *lieu d'aisance* ; in short, they have proceeded throughout with unwarrantable barbarism. I found a few Frenchmen, who had just returned from India, established in this house, for it appears that it is the intention of the French to

make a permanent Khan of it, for I was shewn an order of the Consul General not to allow any one but Frenchmen to reside there, and only to suffer the French flag to be hoisted.

The Viceroy is really very good tempered to allow all this ; I should like to know what reception Turks would meet with, if they attempted to enter into a speculation of the kind, on the ruins of Chambord, or any other isolated ruin in France, situated in a similarly desolate spot.

But it is time to ride across the green plains to Karnack, where we have, in reserve, the *point d'eclat* of Thebes, a marvel embodied in stone, on beholding which, we rub our eyes, and question ourselves whether we are dreaming or awake ?

Of the colossal chamber at Karnack I may say, without exaggeration, that it surpasses a dream, for the imagination cannot suggest anything which resembles it.

What a forest of columns, stronger and higher than the steeples of most churches—what masses of rock, expanded above their chalice capitals—what a surface of pictorial embellishments, immeasurable as the starry

heavens, and what a glow of colours, of which a few spots only give a correct idea, in fact the boldest theatrical decorations would be thrown into the shade by them. And what was this gigantic chamber but a small portion of the monster edifice, whose circumference, as the ruins of the walls clearly prove, amounted to more than eight thousand feet, whose approach was guarded by six stately gates, seventy feet in height, with Pylones, three or four times repeated, and most of which are still standing ; and outside, by an avenue of several hundred colossal sphinxes. And this was but a single temple within the boundaries of "Thebæ with the hundred gates ;" the imagination can scarcely grasp the idea, much less its execution ; and what execution ? Everything that the connoisseur can desire, or that the rules of art exact, is to be found in its details, from the most gigantic conceptions, down to the minutest points, all admirably executed. Dazzled by this mass of towering pylones, colosses, obelisks, gates, porticos, pilasters, and columns, courts, halls, galleries, and chambers, covered with thousands and thousands of figures, environed by the most gorgeous colours ; every true believer must have sunk with reverence to the

dust, and sensible of the presence of the gods, must have veiled his dazzled eyes from the glories of the heaven, thus represented to his view.

The chief entrance to the temple from the Nile is gained by ascending an avenue of sphinxes, shaded by the foliage of green sycamores, until it reached two monstrous pylones, like pyramids, between which the principal gate of the temple, which is now in a state of partial dilapidation, is situated.

Arrived at this point, the whole colossal grandeur of the ruins at Karnack is displayed at one perspective view. In spite of the heaps of ruins, and seven prostrate columns, twenty-two feet in diameter, which lie in the immediate vicinity, we have a view extending to a distance of one thousand paces, through twelve inner gates, part in ruins, varying from seventy to eighty feet in height, first through the wide court in front, then through the colossal hall, through the court of the Obelisks, and that of the Colossus, across the sanctuary, a perfect gem in its way, occupying the centre of the building, at a somewhat lower elevation than the rest—on the opposite side we again look through a variety of courts and porticos, until the light of the blue



heavens meets the view at the opposite extremity of the whole range of building, falling through a gate as high as a tower.

The whole forms a spectacle not to be equalled, and this extent of view could only have been obtained by choosing a plot of ground descending on both sides towards a centre, or by lowering the elevation of the sanctuary, occupying the centre, towards which the buildings at either extremity descend, as if in veneration.

The peculiar arrangement of the so called giant hall produces perhaps that grandeur of effect characterising it. The double row of pillars passing through its centre (measuring by the bye forty feet in circumference) are higher and thicker than all the rest by one third of the dimensions, and whilst the ceiling generally rests immediately on the quadrangles above the capitals of the pillars, a space of fifty feet, with colossal windows looking downwards and inwards, remains unoccupied between the large columns and the *plafond*. The columns have an elevation amounting to more than eighty feet, and the extent of free space seen above us, when standing in the centre, is about one hundred and thirty feet.

This arrangement produces, in every point

of view, the effect, not only of a rising but of a total disappearance of the ceiling towards the centre, of so peculiar a nature, that it must be seen to be understood in all its force. The windows in the walls of the high space above the large columns appear, over the Lotus leaves of their capitals, to hang in the air, and are partially closed by immense bars of stone, whose massive, ornamental and foreign character, well agrees with the *tout ensemble*, which differs so entirely from everything we are accustomed to.

This second story served here the same purpose, according to Champollion's hypothesis, as the superstructure in the Rhamsejum; it was a place of residence for the members of the royal family, who could look down from their chambers towards the interior on a forest of pillars, and from the windows had a view of the immense capital, intersected by the Nile, with the romantic valley, and range upon range of mountains to their full extent. A commodious flight of steps, resembling all those built by the ancient Egyptians, formerly rendered the ascent to these lofty dwellings perfectly easy—we certainly cannot speak much in favour of their present state of convenience, for we had to ascend with some

difficulty from stone to stone over heaps of rubbish.

Arrived at this height, we could at once perceive the enormous size of the masses composing the columns, for among them were blocks of stone more than thirty feet in length and six feet in breadth and diameter, but these certainly are inconsiderable when contrasted with the obelisk in the neighbouring court, which is ninety-six feet in height, formed from one solid block, with a polish like glass—its companion lies shattered by its side.

A violent earthquake must have vented its fury on this spot, in addition to the inroads made by Cambyzes and by time, or the Persians, like the Chinese, must, in those days, have been acquainted with the destructive force of powder. Destruction, such as we observe here, could only have been effected in this way, for the gigantic hall was alone able to withstand its force.

The whole of the one hundred and thirty-four columns, with the exception of two, which lie shattered on the ground, remain standing; they follow very closely, one after the other, an arrangement which probably contributed much towards their preser-

vation, and greatly increased the grandeur of their effect.

The walls of the interior contained the most imposing representations of religious subjects; those of the exterior are decorated with far more extensive and more gigantic battle scenes, than those of the Rhamsejum. Among others there is a large sailing barge, with a temple in its centre, of the natural proportions, if I may use such an expression in speaking of a vessel.

The king is always to be observed in the thick of the battle, towering majestically above the other warriors; he is either depicted seated in his war chariot, or standing, fighting by its side, while some of his attendants are endeavouring to curb the fire of the impatient steeds; others hold a kind of parasol over him, which is supposed to have been the Egyptian flag. This hypothesis is not improbable, for, all forms are conventional, and the sceptres of the Egyptian kings, appear, in our eyes, very like common threshing flails. Perhaps, they, in reality, represent a whip, which is a far more humane emblem of royalty, than a sword. As Achilles dragged the body of Hector round the walls of Troy; the king, in like manner, drags

that of a prince he has vanquished, but not only his corpse, but his chariot, with the fallen horse, which are all attached to the royal equipage.

My intelligent friend, very justly remarks, that, in all these 'paintings, immense power of imagination is visible ; the conception is grand and lively, the action and motive, bold and quick, the expression striking, lively, and impressive, the drawing, without perspective, but remarkably perfect, and beautiful, as regards the elaboration of minute parts. The heads of the horses, are depicted with a force, and fidelity, strangely recalling to our minds, the celebrated group in Venice. The bits, reins, and harness, are splendid ; the chariots appear to be of turned ivory, firm, light, and handsome, of most sublime workmanship, and beautifully ornamented.

I have before mentioned, that the colours with which the entire hall was formerly covered, have retained their original freshness, in several places ; and, at Karnack, we admired the same variety of astonishing combinations, which the Egyptian painters understood so well how to effect, as in their royal tombs.

This is more especially the case in the *adytum*, where, according to my taste, the most

noble compositions, which Egyptian art was capable of producing, are displayed. The elegance, and really enchanting beauty of many of these representations, have, in my opinion, never been surpassed.

Neither the golden age of antiquities, nor the genius of Raphael, has furnished us with anything more perfect. I found, opposite the porphyry gate, leading from the gallery, surrounding the lesser hall of the sanctuary, to a dilapidated lateral chamber, the figure of a young king of indescribable grandeur, which quite won my heart; it presented such a seductive ideal of immaculate beauty, such a combination of all the most charming, and winning properties of man, such gentleness of expression, such a heavenly smile about the voluptuous lips, such animation in the eye, and such nobility of form, with such divine sublimity in position and appearance, that I could not imagine a more irresistible living being. It was, indeed, a real youthful god, surpassing anything of the kind, ever formed by the Greeks.

The inner walls of the sacred hall, are composed of polished red granite, and the beautiful figures chiselled upon them, are painted of a faint green bronze colour; the ceiling is azure

blue, with golden stars, formed of narrow rays, and is corniced in its whole extent, by a tasteful, interrupted border, in which blue, red, and gold, are alternately repeated.

All this retains its freshness, where it has not been destroyed by force, and is beautiful in the extreme.

The ground of the external wall, round which an uncovered gallery formerly led, is bronze coloured, and the figures partially retain the varying roseate tints, natural to the granite.

A magnificent cornice, projecting far out from the ceiling, displays the same colours as the border in the interior. On these external walls, we meet with the most beautiful works of art; but, for the most part, on a smaller scale, for no figure exceeds the size of life; some of these figures are blue, others red; and, curious as this may appear to an European eye, the execution, the composition, and peculiar character of the style, are of such a nature, that I was never shocked by the apparent want of truth, in the representation of these sublime and charming objects.

In the large portico of forty-eight columns and pilasters, situate near the tenth gate, surrounded by about fifty cell-like chambers, the

copts have again interpolated a Christian church, and smeared the *chef d'œuvres* of the Pharaohs, with hideous pictures of saints. Fortunately, the latter have, for the most part, fallen into decay, indeed, all, with the exception of one, which is in a tolerable state of preservation, while the ancient deities have remained unscathed, and have again made their appearance from beneath ; their colours have not even suffered.

By a second colonnade, we now enter another division of the temple with colossal caryatides leaning against the pilasters, and thence we arrive at the last great gate and make our exit.

We passed several hours among the ruins in order to examine them as minutely as possible ; but I shall, for the present, lay the result of my investigations aside, in order to mention an interlude, which afforded us very agreeable relaxation—for, even pleasure will tire—and the comic is, often, in this world, in a close proximity to the grave.

Whilst we were taking our breakfast in front of the north-eastern gate—among the sculptural embellishments of which, there is an enormous priapus—an English lady's maid,



whose mistress was, probably, in our vicinity, suddenly made her appearance ; she was accompanied by a tall Arab, and was a very pretty, but thoroughly English, girl, dressed with national bad taste, in a short white gown, with a black apron, pink spencer, and green bonnet ; and, had come to take a survey of the wonders of Thebes.

After continuing her inspection for awhile, undisturbed by our presence, we saw her stand still opposite the statue before mentioned, and examine it for some time with great attention.

At last, she turned round to her Arab guide, who stood respectfully behind her, watching her movements, and made signs to him with her hand, to lead her on, exclaiming in astonishment, with a very arch expression of countenance —

*“ Now, I declare, this is, really, very curious ! ”*

We would have risked inviting this *naïve* Englishwoman to partake of our breakfast ; but, although I sent my servant with orders to this effect, she suddenly disappeared among the ruins, and I lost sight of her.

Instead of this visiter, I beheld, to my great dismay, on my *bernouse*, which an Arab had been

carrying—but which, I now put on to defend me from the draught—two very unwelcome guest, giants in their way, belonging to that genus of insects, called by the scientific, *pediculus horridus*.

These are the unavoidable inconveniences of a journey to the land of the “thousand and one nights.” We returned, taking a south-westerly direction, through three pairs of pylones, closely succeeding each other, and all three furnished with colossal statues, in a sitting or walking posture, and covered with pictures and hieroglyphics, like all the stones of this colossal pile of building, which the Pharaohs of every dynasty, from the time of Thotmorest, have increased during a period of more than a thousand years, always adding something new.

The largest of all the avenues of sphinxes, joins the outer gate in this direction, and a row of continuous heaps of ruins, indicates the site of many other buildings, which, in former days, stood at either side of them.

The avenue is two miles in length, and leads to a most ancient, but totally dilapidated Typhonium, though the even ruins now display a bold character. While all the other ruins of

Karnack, excepting a few palm trees growing in the sand, are totally devoid of vegetation, they are here, quite overgrown with weeds.

A fearful statue of Typhon, several fractured colossal statues, and a number of sphinxes, peep forth from beneath the luxuriant brushwood; many of which, are, curiously enough, in a very perfect state of preservation, on a spot where every thing else is totally destroyed; some of them, have the most charming human features, and most of them, admirably formed rams' heads.

In three or four places, several dozens of dark green female forms, sculptured in basalt, with fierce lions' faces, sit cowering close to each other in the grass, and had an awfully super-natural appearance.

A moat with embankments like a large lake, —and which, is still filled with water, and, consequently, communicates by subterraneous canals, with the distant Nile—surrounds three sides of the elevation, on which the Typhonium stood like a fortress; and high dams, and heaps of ruins on the opposite side of the water, give evidence of a number of considerable buildings, which stood in this vicinity in former times.

The sacred Ibis is said, sometimes, to shew itself like a phantom, in the desolate expanse of waters; and, I am inclined to believe, in any extraordinary apparition in a place dedicated to the evil spirit—for, I felt most uncomfortable here, probably owing to the effect of the gigantic masses, and marvellous works, crowded together before me—for they, at least, added to the awe I felt, in my excited state of mind.

It was now getting dark, and lost in meditation on the fabulous past, we rode, unconsciously, through the extensive groups of palaces in the plains; above which tower, in the north and south, the dark ruins of Karnack and Luxor, and between which, a close avenue of several thousand colossal sphinxes—two good miles in length—formerly existed!

At last, we caught a glimpse of the pennants of boats, by the broad light of the moon; and, beneath them, glittering like a mirror, the waves of the blue Nile. At this place, the river is really *blue*, its turbid yellow water has become clear and pure; and, at Thebes, the inhabitant of the north, beholds with astonishment, the first crocodiles he meets with, as they occasionally cross the stream to bask,

unmolested, in the sun, on the white islands of sand.

The remains of a dead crocodile, dried by the sun, lay on the shore, and gave us the opportunity of examining, without fear, one of the most hideous of all the sacred animals of Egypt.

## CHAPTER V.

## ASSUAN.

AMONGST the greatest plagues of Egypt, may be reckoned the flies—by which, you are tormented all day long, until they make way in the evening for the gnats—which are, however, more rare, and scarcely as vicious, as those to be met with in damp places in Europe. I have not, as yet, observed any mosquitoes like those that are to be found in Barbary.

The obstinate calm which had set in since we left Thebes, retarded our progress considerably, and soon afterwards, our large bark was driven

on a heap of stones, where it was fixed so firmly, that we were obliged to remain close to a rock for eighteen hours in a scorching heat, before we could get afloat again. A third annoyance, was the deficiency of certain provisions, which it is impossible to procure here, particularly wine and sugar.

I should advise every body to take three times as much of these articles, as well as tea and good tobacco, as they think they will be able to consume. Too much is seldom an incumbrance, but too little is frequently sensitively felt, and if it become a habit, may even prove prejudicial to the health.

After two days' travelling we reached Esne, a well built, and, for Egypt, more than usually clean town; here is also to be found the well preserved and magnificent portico of a large temple, which at present serves as a corn magazine. In order to partition the necessary apartments, walls of mud have been raised between its proud rows of pillars. Almost every one of these pillars bears a different capital, on which the various colours are remarkably fresh. Both pillars and walls are covered with sculptures, the execution of which does not however date from the best period.

At Esne we saw the first blacks with large silver rings in their noses, and women walking quite naked with the exception of a narrow girdle. We found the town inhabited by a number of Almehs, whom the Viceroy had banished hither from Cairo, and supports at the expense of government during half the year. At the expiration of that period, they are, it is true, at liberty to return to Cairo, but are not permitted to continue their former occupations. Here they meet with no interruption and make the best use of their liberty. There were some very pretty girls amongst them, whom Doctor Koch had formerly seen dancing at Cairo. The poor girls bitterly regretted their exile, and brought forward, moreover, a very peculiar complaint against the inhabitants of these parts, which made us laugh heartily, as we are only accustomed in Europe to hear of the converse, which sometimes terminates in a suit at a court of consistency.

After the long continued calm we had stormy weather, during which we did not make a whit more progress, and in the night the wind even tore the sail of my bark, causing, together with the screams of the Arabs, who cry out on every occasion, a dread-



ful noise. Torwards morning we observed a large herd of buffalos swimming through the river, and two or three of our cabin boys, who live like amphibious animals in both elements, together with my Spartan Susannis, amused themselves by pursuing them. There is certainly no animal with a more decided, but at the same time more droll expression of stupidity than the Egyptian buffalo, particularly in the water, where his misshapen head and staring eyes are alone visible. At last the wind became more favourable, and we sailed, without stopping, past the imposing mass of ruins of Edfu, and then past Konombos, although it cost us no small struggle to pass them by without inspection, for what we delay we frequently lose sight of altogether. At sunrise we arrived at a spot where, near D'shebel Selsele, the Nile becomes so narrow between two steep rocks, that a stone could easily be thrown from one shore to the other.

According to Geoffroi de St. Hilaire, the closed mountains of rock offered in olden times an impenetrable wall to the Nile, forcing it to continue its course to the west of the Lybian chain of mountains towards the Mediterranean. Slight traces of that former course are said to still existing in the desert, and the oases

are perhaps the portions remaining of the wide plains, which were in those days rendered fertile by it. At last it overcame the opposing dam, and probably, like the the Rhine fall flowing over it, formed a cataract, until after thousands of years it at last succeeded in forcing a free passage, and formed at the same time the Delta in the ocean.

Immediately after the narrow pass before Selsele, the proud river again extends itself in all its majesty, for not having any additional supply of any kind during a course of several hundred hours, excepting from the Atbarra, which is for the greater part dry, it has the peculiarity of rolling forward the same volume of water during its whole length, (commencing at Kartum, where the white and blue rivers unite.)

As you gradually approach Assuan, you frequently observe isolated rocks in the bed of the river, and it is necessary, during the night time, to proceed with great caution.

Both by day and night, during this rapid travelling, the song of the sailors and the music of the tambourine, accompanied by a variety of extempore songs, were incessantly heard. Whilst Susannis was pursuing the buffalos and surpassing in rapid swimming even

the negroes, he was for a time the hero of their songs ; at another time, when I made them a present of a sheep, I myself shared with the meek victim the honor of the day ; for the slaughtering of a sheep is sufficient to constitute a festival.

As a rule, these merry people live entirely on bread, or ship biscuit and cheese, of which, however, they are capable of devouring enormous quantities ; and they work for this food alone, without any other remuneration.

We were now approaching the borders of Egypt. Two high rocks rose like a gate-way in the middle of the stream, and a sepulchre on the summit of the mountain on our right hand, and an old palace on the left shore bordered by palm trees, indicated our approach towards a town. And after a few minutes we, in fact, observed the Roman walls, with the Nilometer on the island of Elephantine, the houses of the new Mahomudan Assuan surrounded by green hedges, and above it the ruins of the old Christian Syene, thus presenting three phases of the history of this country.

We rested here for several days, and met with a very friendly reception from Vali-

Kashef, a well-educated Turk, who is fond of the Europeans, and takes pleasure in obliging them in every possible way.

Our first expedition was to the island of Elephantine, the rich ruins of which have only lately been destroyed. Nothing more is at present to be found of them, excepting a part of the Nilometer with the steps leading from it, mentioned by Strabo, and traces of measures marked deeply in the outer stones, a few remnants of pillars strewn about, two mutilated statues, and a gate decorated with hieroglyphics, together with the walls of some large works.

The fantastical rocks of granite, lying opposite, bear several Egyptian inscriptions and pictures; further on, the first cliffs of the cataracts are perceptible.

One part of the island of Elephantine, or "the flourishing island," as the Arabs call it — is well cultivated, and instead of its former holy temples, it is now only celebrated for its milk and butter.

Whilst we were perambulating its groves and plains, enlivened by the grazing cattle, the natives offered us all kinds of insignificant antiquities for sale, amongst which were two

small wheels of a watch, which might perhaps have served an European policeman for the purpose of discovering some murder or theft, for how could the inhabitants otherwise get possession of such an article ?

There are likewise interesting remains of antiquity in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, whence it is evident, that in our times Diodor has been wrongfully accused of inaccuracy, for mentioning the Nilometer as being in the town of Syene, and situated opposite the island Elephantine, for it is not to be supposed that two different Nilometers existed in such close proximity. *Le vrai souvent n'est pas vraisemblable*—and this is the case here, for the remaining portions of the Nilometer on the spot where the Egyptian Syene stood, might be pointed out with almost greater certainty, than those mentioned by Strabo on the Elephantine.

Extensive baths were connected with it, which are even now partly in a condition for use.

These were days of great festivity for our sailors, and they spent the greater part of them in the water, where they diverted themselves like river gods, and in imitation of

dolphins, tumbled head over heels against each other; the object of this extraordinary manœuvre seeming to be that of giving their opponents unexpectedly so smart a blow with the leg, that he is, against his inclination, obliged for a moment to disappear in the water. The person, who is thus struck, continues swimming under water, waiting for an advantageous opportunity, when appearing suddenly again on the surface he returns the blow received with interest. This novel combat contributed in no small degree to our amusement, and an Englishman would, no doubt, have betted considerable sums on the vigorous water-boxers. We contented ourselves with throwing some piastres into the river, in order to keep up the game.

On one of these occasions, the doctor dropped a valuable mouthpiece off his pipe into the deepest part of the stream. Three several times they dived after it in vain, as in Schiller's ballad, until at last, after a fourth plunge, one of these active amphibious creatures succeeded in bringing it up safely.

Mayest thou, gentle reader, have every thing which thou hast given up as lost, restored to thee in like manner! a wish by no means to be despised, and with which I here, on the borders

of Egypt, take a grateful leave of all my unknown readers, male and female, whose number never appears large enough to the author, until we meet again in the deserts of Nubia.

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE CATARACTS. PHILÆ.

AJIAME had formed several intimate *liaisons* in the Harem of Vali-Kasheff, and as I was afraid she might suffer from the fatigues of a further journey, I left her until our return, under the care of the old Kasheff, and gave her in charge of his chief eunuch, recommending her to his particular care for her welfare and comfort.

On parting from this amiable child of nature I felt more sorrow than I had anticipated, and it really became a sacrifice, when I observed the grief she evinced at remaining alone, and



in a strange house, and yet I was forced to admire the firmness with which she succeeded in conquering this very natural feeling. But she was in every respect a little heroine and gave me many a proof of it up to the time of her death.

As soon as our departure from Assuan was determined upon, we were obliged, in order to tow our Kangshes through the cataracts, to have all our baggage unloaded, and notwithstanding this precaution, every one maintained that only the smaller one could pass, on account of the low water mark. This would have exposed us to great inconvenience in the course of the voyage, and I therefore insisted upon an attempt being made to pass the large Taha-bia also, and I was fortunately seconded by the obliging Kasheff, whom I reminded of Mehemet Ali's favorite motto:—"Nothing is impossible!" and who moreover seemed anxious to convince himself, if it were possible, in spite of the resistance of the Rais of the cataracts, who declared that such an attempt had never before been made, but he did not dispute that a vessel of her dimensions might perhaps, by an extraordinary effort, and a number of additional hands, be forced over these destruction threatening rocks.

The Tahabia in question belonged however to the governor of Khene, and the Rais refused his consent on that ground.

"If it should be destroyed," the Kasheff heroically exclaimed, "I will pay for it, and take the responsibility on myself."

This decided the affair, (for the danger only threatened the vessels, and by no means the crew,) and the boats being now totally freed from their ballast immediately started, accompanied certainly by a doleful song of the negroes, but with a very favorable wind.

Having sent the caravan containing our luggage before us, we chose the road through the celebrated granite quarries which have supplied the materials for the wonders of Thebes, as well as the innumerable monuments of the other Egyptian cities. Here one may study the peculiar manipulation of this stone practised by the Egyptian workmen, and may see amongst numerous other curiosities of this kind, an obelisk nearly complete and ready to be separated from the rock, suspended from the wall of the quarry.

To us it will no doubt continue an enigma, how the ancients managed to transport these tremendous masses with such facility, and by what means they, unacquainted as they were

with gunpowder, were enabled to blast rocks with much greater accuracy than we can attain.

Was it effected merely by the application of innumerable hands as one is almost led to conclude from the pictures engraven on some of the tombs—or were they acquainted with a law of mechanics which has hitherto escaped us.

Not far from the quarries, on the highest part of the plain, rise the ruins of a Saracen watch-tower, from the battlements of which, the eye beholds a strange and marvellous landscape. It looks as if the giants of some former age had diverted themselves by dancing about on the immeasurable plains of the scorching desert, and heaping thousands and thousands of black and red granite blocks in fantastic devices one upon the other, with the idea of forming artificial images of a peculiar shape and kind.

All these masses of black and red coloured stone look as if they had been burnt and smelted in a volcanic fire and then cooled in the flood, their forms being grotesque and various, and unaccompanied by the least vestige of vegetation or life. The spectacle becomes still more imposing on again approaching the Nile, where those black heaps of stone,

fantastic in shape and prismatically joined, rise to the height of mountains, whilst between them you see the innumerable tributary streams of the river endeavouring to force a passage through them; some of them shoot past like arrows, others, arrested by the rocks, froth like milk, but none of them present at any spot anything like a considerable perpendicular waterfall, but merely roll, boiling and hissing over some not very steep dams formed naturally by the rocks more or less inclined and winding their way round the dark masses like a thousand silver-coloured snakes. These are what are termed the first cataracts.

When we arrived on the summit of the row of rocks nearest to the river, we could already observe in the midst of this labyrinth of waters the largest of our barks which had been sent on before us, engaged in a dangerous struggle with the widest and most violent whirl-pool.

We immediately descended towards the river in order to observe this interesting scene as closely as possible.

More than three hundred naked negroes from the race of the Barabias, for the most part young people, from twelve to twenty years of age, all robust and frequently of exceed-

ingly handsome form, were exercising partly in the water, partly on the projecting rocks and on the shore, and were engaged in different occupations, headed by an old man with grey hair and beard, the chief Rais of the cataracts, who, notwithstanding his athletic figure and features, which almost inspired one with fear, and the immense power of his lungs, was scarcely able to keep these wild youths under proper discipline. More amphibious even than the Fellahs, water is to the Barabras or Berberines, an element both in and under which they move with as little inconvenience as on the earth. Many of them supported and guided whilst swimming the heavy tahabia, which, like river-gods, they appeared to carry on their shoulders ; others at the sametime took it in tow, leaping like squirrels from rock to rock, pulling it with the thick ropes from side to side, and changing its position according as it was required ; others again pushed the bark with long poles, at times accelerating its course, and again carefully stopping it ; many of them however did nothing at all, but diverted themselves by diving head over heels in the deepest part of the stream, and allowing the roaring waves to hurl them down the falls, whilst nothing but their black heads, or a foot or

an arm was from time to time visible amidst the froth of the cataracts, and appeared like a stone thrown on the surface of the water; the other negroes who were in waiting—carried us on their shoulders over inconvenient or wet spots—fetched us water to drink from one of the little Charybdes before us, holding the cup filled to the brim over their heads whilst swimming, and then mingling with the crowd amidst laughter and joking as soon as they received from us the backshis, which they demanded with some degree of importunity, but at the same time with perfect good humour.

But very few of these children of nature, who certainly did not present any appearance of distress, had encumbered themselves with the usual narrow girdle, but several of them carried the dagger of the Barabras, fastened to the upper part of the left arm, by a strap, without its interfering at all with their swimming. All of them exposed, unconcernedly, their bare heads to the piercing rays of the sun; and it was with astonishment I observed that the greater number of them, notwithstanding their beautiful and sound teeth, had lost three or four of them, either at the right side or front of the mouth. On enquiring the cause of it,

I was informed that they had mutilated themselves in this manner in order to escape, with more certainty, the military service, although the Viceroy, who has too much need of the Barabars to work at the cataracts, has never yet pressed them for the service.

After half an hour of great exertion and some critical moments of danger to the vessel, when sailing between the two cliffs, and which indeed did not entirely escape without some few slight injuries: a shout of joy which rent the air, announced the agreeable news that the chief obstacle was overcome, and the remaining labour was comparatively inconsiderable. We seized this opportunity, after another distribution of backshis, to mount our horses, in order to continue our route to Philæ. The heat of noon, reflected from the white sand and polished blocks of stone, was painful in the extreme, but the delightful idea of being in Ethiopia,\* reconciled us to every

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\* Ancient Ethiopia extends below Dongola, and it was there that Nubia commenced. The present Nubia begins at Assuan and the boundaries of this country are allowed by geographers to extend *ad libitum* towards the Upper Nile.

inconvenience ; and I thought to myself how many of the same turn of mind at home, would willingly put up with ten times the trouble and discomfort, to be able for one moment to change places with me. But the immense expanse of the world, extending from the 54th to the 24th degree of latitude, a number of difficulties, and the uncertainty of all human affairs deter most people, and they prefer, taking all things into consideration, remaining at home. They say to themselves, and perhaps with justice : Have we not travellers who will sweat and fast for us, suffer hardships of every kind, and whose duty it is to communicate to us all the most entertaining and remarkable occurrences they meet with, all the most useful information they can glean, while we have no other sacrifice to make in return, but to send a few pence to the nearest circulating library. What sultan could demand more, or be served with greater readiness ! So it is, and this is one of the inestimable advantages of our civilisation, which furnishes us with every convenience of this kind—for the public seems to have taken the place of the country, for which men formerly sacrificed themselves, but it is the representative of a very different idea from the ancient *respublica*.



After riding rapidly for an hour through the desert, which maintained the same character throughout, we, at length, caught a glimpse of a few palms, sycamores, and mimosas, under whose branches nestled several neat huts, painted white by the inhabitants, and with great taste. The granite stone covering the gate, was, however, of a crimson colour, and had a passage from the Koran engraven on it.

Groups of pretty girls and charming children with large nose-rings and glass beads round their necks, and elegant girdles round their waists, whence an apron of fine, plaited leather straps, decorated with shells depended, sat chatting beneath the shade of the trees, expecting their husbands and relatives, who were still occupied at the cataracts.

Two large sakis, turned by a number of oxen, stood in the centre of a field of dhourra of dazzling green, and the Nile formed a large lake near it, bordered on three sides by the dark rocks surrounding the village and its fields, and in the opposite direction, by the interminable desert.

After wandering through this Nubian idyllic scene, to which, however the dead sand of the horizon gave a melancholy aspect, we found

ourselves opposite a huge granite wall, piled above us, whose jagged outlines seemed to bar all further progress.

We thought we had arrived at an inaccessible province of a mysterious character, which could only be opened by the touch of a magic wand, when suddenly a small and narrow path shewed itself leading through the stones to the heights.

Our guide's tired donkey, which was called *l'Inglese* (this guide, by the way, was an original, and I shall have to speak of him again) slipped off the smooth blocks of stone, and for a moment buried its rider beneath its body.

Scarcely had we helped the poor fellow, who was fortunately unhurt, on his legs again, and proceeded a few paces, when an exclamation of joy from the Doctor made me look up, and I beheld what I took for a mirage of the desert before me.

In the midst of the most grotesque masses of black basalt,\* a green, oval island, of regular form, covered by palms, and resembling the gar-

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\* It was not real basalt, but granite, rendered black by heat ; but it is known generally by this name here.

den of the Hesperides, bordered by stone quays, in large squares and covered from one extremity to the other with an uninterrupted series of the most magnificent buildings, resembling in these inhospitable wilds, rather the ethereal habitation of fairies, than the works of man. This was Philæ, one of the most beautiful marvels of the fabulous kingdom of the Pharaohs, and even if only the smaller number of buildings date from their time, certainly of the most splendid and tasteful monuments of those lovers of the arts, of the Ptolemies.

Its fortunate state of preservation does much for its effect, and its stately rows of more than one hundred upright columns of the temple of Osiris, which have remained externally almost intact, the two piers of pylones in perfect preservation, and lastly the peculiar transparent Roman temple in the back ground, differing totally from the Egyptian style, and of which not a stone is missing, excepting in the ceiling ; all present, even at a distance, a sight of extraordinary grandeur and elegance. How much is this view surpassed on closer inspection ! How grand are these masses of various connected buildings, where so little attention is paid to symmetry,

that scarcely one chief gate stands exactly opposite the other, and yet nowhere is the eye offended. What an inexhaustible fund of the most varied and elaborate specimens of sculpture, covering every wall and column — what brilliancy and charming effect of colour, retaining, in some of the chambers, their original beauty, especially in the *peonao* of the large temple, where twenty centuries would scarcely have left a trace of their lapse, had it not been for the Christians, who have used force in their work of destruction. How all this would delight and enchant you, even if, as we had done, you had previously beheld the *chef d'œuvres* of Egyptian art.

If the grand may be compared with the little, I should be inclined to say, that Philæ is to Thebes, what the Farnesina is to the palace of Farnese.

There is not the divine sublimity manifest in the almost awful grandeur of the temples of Karnack and Luxor ; but we have here displayed, in its stead, more exquisite elegance, more diversity of form, more pleasing delicacy, if I may so express myself in sport, the first evidence of the transition to the proportionately more modern style. This style seems here, without our being able to tell the reason

quite appropriate, perhaps, the reason lies in the agreeable contrast of the curious, which appear always terrific, with their black rocks and barren deserts, or perhaps it is because the *tout ensemble* forms a resting-point flattering to the weakness of our modern feelings, which can scarcely soar for any time to the colossal grandeur of the remote ages of Egypt, without an attack of giddiness.

If in Thebes I found matter to adore spiritually ; at Philæ I enjoyed myself with terrestrial pleasure.

Thebes is a residence for the gods, Philæ appears like the palace of an epicurean.

Religious liberality had, undoubtedly made great progress, and there was less of gloomy asceticism when these buildings were erected, although Osiris, according to legendary tradition, lies buried in this island, and an austere creed could alone have made selection of this awful scene, marked by the destructive elements of nature for the site of his temple.

As soon as we had set up our tents, which were pitched on the steep shores of the Nile opposite to Philæ, and had piled up our luggage in heaps around them, we were ferried across the river to the island where we landed

at a very favourable moment, an hour before sunset.

A painter, and, indeed, a painter of great genius, would be alone capable of giving a representation of this seductive spot, with all the effect it produces in nature.

After wandering from chamber to chamber, and through the double and triple porticos, where more than twenty different orders of columns alternate, we remained some time admiring the long and gorgeous hall before-mentioned, in the peristyle of the chief temple, which is calculated to give the most accurate idea of the former splendour of the Egyptian temples, by the wonderful preservation of the original colouring, which is the more astonishing in so large a space, since, as I before observed, it is entirely open and unprotected ; not one of the magnificent columns in this hall resemble the other ; each separate pillar glitters in the varying tints of different colours, each separate shaft displays a variety of wonderful embellishments, and a variety of forms ; but they all unite in collectively producing the most perfect harmony of effect.

The gigantic figures on the outer surfaces of

the pylones, almost reaching to their summits, have been, for the most part, chiselled off, by the iron implements of religious vandals ; but the entire effect suffers little, for some of the gods and heroes still remain intact in all their pristine splendour.

Easy as is the work of destruction in comparison with that of construction, the insane fanaticism of the Persians and Christians has, to the present time, met with a stumbling-block in the gigantic works of the Egyptians ; for neither spoliation from religious zeal, from avarice, and the tooth of time, which has been thousands of years at work, have been able to accomplish their destruction. On the gate, leading through these pylones, the chiefs of the French expedition and the scientific men who accompanied it, had a long inscription engraved on the left wall, which is free from hieroglyphics, and a more recent traveller of the same nation has had all the more modern inscriptions close to it, effaced the wall itself levelled, and the following substitute painted in black letters, over the spot :—

*“ Une page de l'histoire ne doit pas rester barbouillée par des noms insignifiants.”*

How many names of English tourists may have perished by this arbitrary proceeding.

The order has, however, been respected up to the present time ; but we still wish that the letters of the names of the French Generals and learned men, that very *page de l'histoire* had been executed by more able hands ; for standing in juxta position with the hieroglyphics and pictorial embellishments of the ancients they look more like crow's feet than letters, and recal an idea of barbarism forcibly to the mind, which contrasts so comically with the high stilted bombast of the inscription, that it involuntarily excites our laughter—the more so, since that ephemeral expedition has been followed by no ostensible results.

We mounted the convenient flight of steps of the pylones, which are in a good state of preservation, and illuminated by funnel-shaped windows, and communicate with the chambers of the priests, with the intention of enjoying the prospect from the platform, by the light of the setting sun, for this is certainly one of the most unique sights in the world.

Extending beneath the eye were the forest of pillars, and all the gates, pylones, courts and walls of Philæ, over which waved the fan-shaped leaves of the palms, the walls covered with thousands of pictures of gods and heros,



the heads of some of which reached up to where we stood, though their feet rested on the ground.

The plan of the whole building might be distinctly traced from this position, as in a map, surrounded by the Nile, which, in the direction of Egypt, forms a dead sea, full of dark and strange looking blocks of granite.

Dull walls of rock rise immediately behind the narrow banks of the shore on either side of the river, and are of equal height on both, and land-slips of white sand may be observed on the cliffs of the banks, resembling waterfalls in the distance.

Towards the north-east we behold, as the frontispiece, the sole pastoral scene of this sublime Salvator Rosa ; a government station, surrounded by a few sycamores, and the fields and huts of a village lie immediately behind, while we have the vast and barren desert receding in waving lines from the view, until it is at last lost in mysterious distance, in a confused halo of fog.

In dead silence, and lost in thought, we contemplated this dream-like picture, until the approaching night gradually shut out, from our view, one object after the other.

One of these masses, in which steps are hewn, resembles a colossal throne. The back is formed by a level surface, decorated with hieroglyphics and sculptures, and an immense block hovering, as it were, in the air above it.

The mighty river, in its course from Nubia, flows with rapid fall through a narrow, contracted bed, bordered by a few groups of palms, in the interstices between which, on the left, a few white deserted mosques may be seen, and on the right, on the rocky island of Bithieh, the ruins of an ancient temple. In all probability a number of these buildings were, in former times, distributed over this neighbourhood, and it remains at present a problem where the god, or, as tradition informs us, the most essential part of him was interred, and the monotonous roaring of the cataracts passing over the royal throne, with the howling of an approaching storm, now greeted our ears. The latter sound reminded us of the necessity of returning; we therefore hurried down to reach our boat before the dreaded khamsin should burst forth. We had, however, delayed too long.

Scarcely had we reached the shore, when we were caught by one of those sudden whirl-

winds which are of frequent occurrence here, and extremely troublesome on land, on account of the volumes of dust with which they instantly fill the whole atmosphere, and, indeed, they are not without danger on the water. Of this fact we had some proof, for our boats, whose sails could not be reefed with sufficient speed, were all but capsized, and were afterwards driven down the stream, to a steep declivity of the shore, which we could scarcely ascend with the fury of the raging wind.

Night had set in when we reached our camp enveloped in clouds of dust, and covering our faces carefully with our hands, to avoid *ophthalmia*, which is a frequent consequence of these storms.

We found the tents all torn down by the force of the wind, and everything in and around them in the utmost confusion.

The cook made his appearance, complaining that he could not keep a fire alight, and would have to offer us more sand than food, as all his dishes were, in spite of the covers, filled with it. This was an unpleasant circumstance ; but patience and a little effort will overcome every difficulty, and the unpleasant *khamsein* abating subsequently, for about half an hour,

we made such good use of the interval, that we succeeded, by means of additional ropes, in repitching our tents so firmly, that they resisted the attacks of the redoubled fury of the wind during the remainder of the night.

We certainly had to sleep in beds filled with dust an inch thick, and to rest contented the greater part of the following day with the suffocating heat, for the same weather prevailed ; this was a little trial of patience, and gave us a slight taste of what we shall, no doubt, have to endure more frequently and more severely at a future period.

We could not proceed on our journey until the evening of the third day, after having had the boat thoroughly cleaned and swamped, to destroy all the vermin harbouring in it, and more especially to kill the rats, which were as large as kittens ; we caught, or suffocated about thirty of them on this occasion. Whilst this operation was being performed, I paid a second visit to Philæ, and had myself ferried across to the larger island of Bithieh, situated opposite to it, where, as I before mentioned, there are the ruins of a temple, and a *Torso* of a colossal statue, in granite. I shall have

occasion to recur to these subjects, and dilate more fully on them on my return, when I hope to prolong my stay at Philæ, a little longer, if I meet with more favourable weather.

## CHAPTER VII.

THE TEMPLE OF HORROR OF YERF HUSSEIN  
KOROSCO.

THE Nile gradually assumes a very different character from that which has lately distinguished it, and again becomes as monotonous as when we started.

While in Lower Egypt, it glides through an endless expanse of flat, green shores, fertile plains, and wide-spreading groves of palm trees—in Upper Egypt, it flows through equally fertile ground ; but through a more contracted valley, bounded, on the right, and left, by the low chain of Lybian and Arabian

mountains ; and here its bed has become very confined, and is uninterruptedly bounded by dark rocks heaped in chaotic confusion above each other, which appear to consist of blocks, piled on each other by the flood of waters, and along the small bank of the shores scarcely any space remains for the cultivation of a few groups of palms. Between these some paltry villages are to be seen, with a few naked black inhabitants, who appear to take very little interest in what passes around them ; the colossal ruins of the ancient temples, whose dark outlines are depicted in undisturbed solitude, on the back ground of the blue heavens, however, give evidence, by their numbers, of the active life which formerly animated these desolate shores.

As the wind was favourable, I passed most of these ruins without halting, deferring my inspection of them to a future opportunity, when I may be less pressed for time.

On the second evening of our voyage, I for the first time disembarked to take a view of the country from the rocks near the shore. The prospect was not very satisfactory, for nothing could be seen but immense heaps of stones, and hills rising upon hills, through which the river flowed in wide curves. On reaching

the most elevated part of the country, we roused a young hyæna from its lair, which fled so rapidly before us that it excited *Susannis* to the pursuit. It would soon, however, have turned round and shewn its teeth, for we saw her return quicker than she set off with her tail between her legs. Annoyed at not having carried a gun with us, we determined never to be guilty of this neglect for the future ; but we unfortunately never again came within shot of a hyæna.

On the third day the wind dropped, and I landed close to the villages of *Kalabsheh* to examine the temples, situated here. The site of the first of these is near to the Nile, and is a building of considerable size, but a mere glimpse suffices to shew that it is not the work of the Pharaohs. It is of Roman date. But even at this epoch of the decline of Egyptian art, the hieroglyphics, and more especially the anaglyphs are executed with much care, rising as bas reliefs from an indented surface, and their colouring is for the most part in a good state of preservation. A portion of the former are unfinished, and merely traced on the walls with red ochre or black paint. The kings offering sacrifices are almost all of a red, brown colour, the gods



blue, green or lilac. I observed one priest in a violet robe with white spots, holding a mitre in his hand, and a pointed mitre on his head, similar to those worn by our catholic bishops at the present day. The temple, which has been too accurately described by M. Prokesch and others for me to copy them, has a grand approach from the Nile, leading through partially dilapidated ruins of Pylones, as oblique as the hanging tower at Pisa, to an outer court filled with ruins. One solitary column of the number formerly surrounding it, is still standing; the façade of the temple, supported by two corner pillars united by curtain-walls, is in a better state of preservation, and the capitals decorated with lotus leaves, branches of palms, vine leaves and grapes, produce a very superb effect. We entered the first hall by a gate, over which a winged globe, surrounded by a crowned serpent is to be seen in all its pristine glory, and to this succeeds three other halls, filled with numerous gorgeous paintings. The lesser chambers of the priests and sacred animals, are connected with these by a narrow staircase, by which we reach the platform of the temple, which is composed of horizontal blocks of stone.

A few palms surrounding the temple and the adjoining village, and a few green fields of dourra, render the prospect of desolate rocks, extending in solemn monotony over the country round, a little more cheerful than it otherwise would be. From the platform we see at once that several courts, walls and buildings, occupying a large space of ground on all sides, once joined the chief temple; although its proportions are by no means so colossal, or its effect as imposing as several travellers have recently asserted. The entire building was, moreover, never completed, and sculptured work is only to be seen on the external surface of the posterior wall, consisting of eight gigantic statues of gods and kings, some of the former of which M. Prokesch describes as bearing long swords. This assertion is, however, a fallacy, for I feel convinced that what he has taken for a sword is only a broad band depending from their girdles, but certainly stiff as regards the drawing. I do not believe that an Egyptian deity will anywhere be found armed with a sword.

Far more attractive than these massive buildings, which are of no real artistic value, is a *speos* or small temple excavated in the rocks, standing a mile further inwards, in a northern

direction, and furnished with the rings of Sesostriis. The single hall is supported by two short, flat, cannellated columns, hewn out of the rock itself. Similar constructions are only to be met with in the most ancient edifices of Egypt and Nubia, and were perhaps the first models of the subsequent *doric* style. The hieroglyphics on the columns and ceiling are only coloured, and the sitting statues in the niches, are nearly all mutilated.

The most beautiful specimens of sculpture, however, ornament the rocky walls of the ante-court, which is otherwise very simple.

On the one side they represent the battles and victories of the Egyptian kings, on the other long processions of subjugated nations bearing offerings and presents. The very minute account given of them by recent travellers will save me and the reader the trouble of an elaborate description; I must, however, draw his attention to two very remarkable errors into which the most voluminous writer among these travellers has fallen.

He maintains that Sesostriis is represented in one of these sculptured pictures, standing on a chariot drawn ostensibly by one horse attached to the left side of the pole. This otherwise very accurate observer does not ap-

pear to have seen that this presumed *single* horse has eight legs, which was the plan on which the ancient Egyptians frequently represented the teams of their chariots, "*en silhouette*," leaving us to suppose that the one horse quite covered the other, and having removed the latter from the view of the spectator, to prevent error, they denoted its existence by depicting its projecting legs.

The second fallacy regards the *unicorn*, which is said to be presented with many other animals to Rhamses seated on his throne, whence the author draws the inference that the unicorn was not a fabulous animal.

As regards this hypothesis, I am quite of his opinion, but if we cannot find better proofs than this representation affords we shall not make many proselytes to our ideas.

He has fallen into the same error which misled him in the case of the horse: the one horn of the antelope covers the other, as may be ascertained to a certainty, by observing that this horn does not protrude from the forehead of the animal, but rises from the immediate vicinity of the ear. The characters of the various animals are admirably depicted by the artist, and it is impossible to find a more faithful

representation of a giraffe than we meet with here.

The Copts have also painted their saints on this monument, but the ancient deities of the country have made their way through them again, and are well preserved here as in all other places, excepting where the force of the chisel has been applied.

Many vestiges of buildings in the neighbouring valley afford evidence of a considerable town having formerly stood here ; it is supposed to have been the ancient *Talonis*, or perhaps a Roman encampment, the latter hypothesis appeared to me the more probable from its plan of construction.

We descended into the neighbouring village, the inhabitants of which were mostly in a state of nudity, and wore no coverings to their heads, but their long, flowing locks of black hair afford them more protection from the rays of the sun than the shaven Barabras of Philæ enjoy.

These people appear to be better lodged and to be more wealthy than the Egyptian Fellahs, and also less importunate in their demands of Backsheesh. Before their gardens stood earthen vessels of the height of a man, which we found filled with dhourra or with dried

dates, and judging from appearances, any person passing through the village by night can refresh himself with their contents as often as he pleases. Our sailors at least made free with them in the most indiscreet manner.

As we were getting under weigh a very original and characteristic picture of this nation presented itself to our view. Six of these figures of paradisaic beauty of form stood leaning in their natural picturesque postures against the beams of a Saki, in order to watch our departure, and they were grouped so symmetrically "*en medaillon*," one above the other, round the turning wheel, that it would have been impossible to imagine a more characteristic or more graceful disposition for a painting of a group of negroes. We unfortunately had no painter to transfer it to canvass and thus render it immortal.—

*April 6th.*

The continued contrary winds rendered our journey very tedious, to which many other unpleasant circumstances were added. To bugs, spiders, cockroaches, fleas and lice we become at last so accustomed in this country, that we regard them as unavoidable domestic animals; but the myriads of

flies which do not give one a moment's rest during the whole day, at last become insupportable. I suffer very little from the heat although we are now under the *torrid zone*, for we passed, on the afternoon of the 4th, the Tropic of Cancer, when we were surrounded by rocks of most romantic forms.

The retrograde mode of progression in this crustacean region brought on a fit of *nostalgia*, for it reminded me in many respects of my beloved native land.\*

The wind, unfortunately, continues to blow from an analogous quarter, forcing us backwards, and we allow our cloaks to hang that way, but with the sails this will not do, for we barely advance a few miles daily.

The river is as monotonous and desolate as the greater portion of the country. The first boat we met with, after several days journey, was that of three Frenchmen, who left Cairo

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\* Be it remembered that this was written several years ago ; since then great progress is said to have been made in all the countries of Germany.

shortly before us, but returned at Ypsambul, unable to endure longer the inconvenience and difficulties of the journey. They had driven one of them mad ; his friends had left him on the road, to the care of a faithful servant, and now enquired of us in what state we had found him, but we were unable to give them any information.

One day I profited by our slow progress to visit the temple of Dandur ; it is situated on the left shore of the Nile, on which almost all the splendid monuments are erected, which are to be met with between Assuan and Quadi-Halfa. This temple stands on a high Periboles adjoining a hill, and is about twenty feet in height, and about double that extent in length, but it is very neat, and in a very good state of preservation.

This elegant structure would, without any alteration, make a very beautiful temple for our modern European parks, if we could only transport it by means of Aladdin's lamp.

The sculpture, it contains, although deviating greatly from the perfection of the massive buildings of the Pharoahs, is delicate and graceful, and many of the representations are very attractive, more especially one in which a



handsome young god, the Egyptian Horus\* is standing with his finger on his lips behind the Egyptian Venus, who is seated on a gorgeous throne.

In the posterior chamber of three small halls, an aperture, which was formerly carefully concealed, has now been exposed by the fall of some stones; it forms the communication with a cabinet, having no other perceivable entrance and probably served for the concoction of the pious deceptions of the priests, which have been found so necessary in all religions up to the present time.

In the rock rising behind the temple there is a Speos, which has been, at different times, repaired, as is evidently to be seen; its interior is totally devoid of ornament, and its purpose is rather obscure, but according to the contents of a few short inscriptions on its walls, it appears to have stood in a repute of great

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\* Har-per-chets, (Horus, a child with its finger to its lips, not because it wishes to keep silence, but because it has not yet learned to speak, vide Lepsius.)

sanctity from the most remote period of antiquity.

It probably was the sole cause of the erection of this elegant temple in this place, for a more desolate and gloomy spot, in every respect, than the site of this building could not well be conceived.

Our excursion on the following day was far more interesting, although the shallowness of the water, which forced us to land two miles below the temple of *Yerf Hussein*, called also *el Sebna*, would not permit us to approach through the dilapidated avenue of Sphinxes, but compelled us to make a very painful tropical promenade in a retrograde direction, wading all the time through sand, ankle deep.

On our way we met a small caravan, and several of the naked inhabitants of the neighbouring village joined us.

As we approached the temple, we found ten or twelve tall, athletic men assembled, some of them bearing axes on their shoulders, and others pieces of cable in their hands. We could not, at first make out the use of the latter, but they subsequently lighted them, to illuminate the paths in the dark chambers of the rocks. We mustered four persons in all, and were

unarmed, consequently entirely at the disposal of these men in this desolate spot, but as far as Mehemet Ali's sway reaches, the dread of his name is the most certain shield, and a stranger will find more security among these wild hordes, in this tropical desert, both by day and night, than in our most thickly populated capitals.

The rocky temple of Yerf-Hussein, appeared to me one of the most remarkable structures in the province of Egypt; for I am by ocular inspection convinced that this building, notwithstanding the rings of Rhamses the Third or Sesostris, observed on the colossal statues of the Propylae and on the dilapidated Sphinxes decorating the grand stair-case ascending to it from the river-side, is of a far more ancient date, and existed perhaps a thousand years before the time of Rhamses.

It is to me incredible, that works of so heterogeneous a character as the monuments of Thebes or of Ypsambul, and these temples, could belong to the same period of architecture. In the former we observe the utmost perfection of cultivated art, in the latter the raw and uncivilized germ of architecture, containing, however, all the elements of gloomy grandeur. Rhamses (Sesostris) may perhaps have added

the flight of steps, the Propylae and a few of the specimens of sculpture in the interior, but the chief building, no doubt existed long before his time. It would indeed be singular, if we did not meet with some traces of the more ancient architecture in Egypt and Nubia, which certainly must have preceded the highly cultivated style observed in the ruins of Thebes by many thousands of years.

It would appear, that, at a certain period, a general destruction of all the imperfect ancient works took place, either by the invasion of the nomadic nations, (Hyksos) or by the express order of the later sovereigns.

Perhaps the Egyptians themselves, wished to annihilate all their early imperfect attempts, in order to appear at once, before posterity, to their astonishment as perfect as Minerva sprang from the head of a god.

Yet, at that time, the sublime and awful solemnity of the Temple of Yef Hussein, deserved to form an exception, and was, on that account, spared, or it was overlooked by chance, if we prefer the hypothesis, of the destruction of all the ancient works, by order of foreign invaders.

The ante-court with columns, and colossal caryatides representing priests, added to the

building, is, for the most part, a ruin ; but, the temple, properly so called, which is hewn out of the rock, is in good preservation, although fire, which must have burned there for a considerable time, has rendered the sculpture on the walls indistinct, and covered everything with the same dark colour—a circumstance, adding at present, to the unearthly, and almost fearful effect of the whole structure.

By a high gate, occupying the centre of a polished wall of rock, we enter the first hall, which is supported by six colossal statues, thirty feet in height, reclining against heavy, quadrangular pilasters.

The avenue formed by these figures, is as broad as the gate ; and, on entering it we almost touch them, and feel inconvenienced by their oppressive proximity, and, can scarcely avoid giving way to a fear of apparitions, under the threatening, fixed regard of their expressive features.

The darkness of the surrounding night, the glowing links smouldering away like burning charcoal, their suffocating fumes, and the wild forms of the negroes, who did not reach to the knees of the gigantic statues, contributed in no small degree to the peculiar awe inspired by this mysterious temple.

Behind the pillars we have mentioned, a broader walk leads round the walls of the hall. In these walls there are deep niches opposite the interstices of the pillars, in which, coarsely sculptured, but very expressive statues, in size, rather larger than life, are observed; the statues generally speaking, consist of two men and one woman, on their left side. They are not depicted *en profile*, like the rest of the mural sculpture, but stare full at the spectator with angry countenances, which appeared animated, as the torches occasionally threw a momentary glare upon them, from the clouds of smoke surrounding us. One of my guide books describes their colour as being reddish-brown, not black, as some travellers have erroneously asserted.

After a careful examination of them, I was not able to corroborate this statement—for, the works appeared to me, to have been originally green; a few of them only shewed a trace of the brown colour of the Egyptian skin; some were decidedly black, and might be readily recognised to be negroes by their features, a mixture of nations, we subsequently met with more frequently, and which evidently proves the intimate connexion and intercourse existing, in ancient times,

between the Egyptians and Ethiopians. Nearly all the statues in the temple are densely coated with soot, and on the belts merely of the gigantic kings, and girdles of the priests, a little blue and red colour may be seen in its original brilliancy. The style of the sculpture on the wall, as far as it can be distinctly traced, is very variable, and many portions which are superior to the rest in execution, I consider on that account more recent productions, i. e. about three thousand years old, and added by Rhamses. The second less ornamental hall, which has no statuary, communicates with other chambers, the middle one and largest of which, opposite the entrance, contained the sanctum sanctorum.

In a niche, occupying nearly the entire height of the wall, we observe four colossal statues, of far greater dimensions than those contained in the lateral niches. The extreme statue on the left side, represents a young woman of slender figure, embracing her neighbour tenderly with her arm. This is probably the royal pair who lie interred here, or the statues of the founders; ten other figures are deities, and display the attributes of Ammon, Ra and Osiris. These figures are coarse and frightful, although full of expression

and in a tolerable state of preservation. A strange peculiarity of these four figures is the disgusting appearance of their swelled legs and feet. To us there was something dragon or toad-like even in the colour, and we could not stand there long without thinking of a Moloch, and the human sacrifices formerly offered him; and certainly a more appropriate place for his horrid rites could not be found.

The remaining four chambers are so destroyed by the flames, that whole masses of the rock have separated from the ceiling and fallen to the ground. The sculpture on the walls could scarcely be distinguished, and hundreds of bats flying about in these frightful apartments, frequently put out our links of cable.

Four piastres (one franc) were sufficient to satisfy our guides, but their arrangement of the division of this treasure, lasted much longer than we could wait. Five minutes after we had left them, we still heard their loud quarrelling, and saw them jumping about, and gesticulating like apes, in a perspective view, through the dark gates of the temple.

The little fertile land remaining along the shores of the river, we found highly cultivated and irrigated by very high Sakis with double stages, which must have cost a large sum to



erect. We obtained here some excellent milk and succulent fresh beans, a very agreeable addition to our table, whose supply had, by this time, become very meagre, for it was limited to lean chickens, mutton and lentils, which we had to eat with biscuit soaked in water, because the bread we had supplied ourselves with at Assuan had long become mouldy and was spoiled. In this neighbourhood, bread is unknown, and the Dhourra cakes of the natives, which it requires the stomach of an ostrich to digest, could not supply its place. We cannot prevail on one of our sailors to catch fish, neither have I seen any implements for fishing, or have fish been offered us for purchase, although the Nile yields most excellent fish in great abundance. They appear, however, to be regarded here as little edible as water rats and serpents with us in Europe. It is not without some degree of uneasiness that I touch on this subject. It is well known how certain critics, and my own countrymen indeed, have accused me of gastronomy, but at Kahira a number of the *Courier Français* fell into my hands, in which a French critic, who is perhaps suffering the tortures of hunger in some attic at Paris, for no better reason vents his spleen on the *German tourist*, who, to his disgust, seems to dine

copiously and well, and is even so bold as to mention it freely; I must confess that I had least of all expected an attack of this kind, from the refined French, who invented the *almanach des gourmands*, whose books on cookery form, at present, the chief part of their classic literature, and whose cooks, together with their culinary fame, are spread over the five parts of the globe!

But as this amiable nation generally knows how to do everything with a certain grace, the individual in question, like his countrymen generally, is so quick at repartees, that it is impossible to be angry with him and many an honest German may take pattern by the cleverness and aptitude of the Frenchman. Thus this critic has collected all the passages, in which the author mentions eating from a book of five volumes, and embracing a space of five years in the form of a series of gastronomic articles, so that every one unacquainted with the book must believe it to be written by a *commis voyageur* of some industrious European *restaurateur*, who, true to his profession, admits nothing in the list of his observations but eatables—and I, who am the real author, must confess that I could not abstain

from a hearty fit of laughter on reading over the long list, in this burlesque composition.

This young French critic (for many points in his work prove him to be young) is in a good road, and I cordially wish his pen sufficient success, to enable him to eat daily at the *Café de Paris* as good or a better dinner than I shall ever have the opportunity of describing.

Certain German critics have frequent recourse to another trick, namely, they invent things which are no where to be found in the book, or at least, they so distort, in the extract, the things that are really in it that they may be said to belong to them and not to the author, so that by this means it becomes easy to furnish subjects for the poorest order of wit. This mode of proceeding is at all events effective with all who have not read the work, which it is sought to ridicule, and even with those who have read it, for it generally happens that few recollect so precisely the contents, as not to take it for granted, that the criticised absurdities really appear in it, and perhaps only wonder how they could have so entirely overlooked them before. But notwithstanding all attacks of this kind, I shall not entirely give up a habit, in which I have some great predecessors. It

refreshes the reader's inner man to talk to him occasionally of eating, and I have often felt that sensation myself, in reading some English novels. I even once received an anonymous letter, in which a Pomerian landlady (the post mark betrayed her country) returned me her sincere thanks, for a new recipe for cooking potatoes, and sent me, as a counter present, two other excellent culinary prescriptions, together with a smoked goose, whilst the same post brought me a letter from a younger lady in Berlin, who wanted to make me a better Christian than I appeared to her to be. Trophies like these are the author's pride, and I dare not let their source run dry.

8th April.

At last we have got a favourable wind, which has conveyed us in one day a distance, which it has hitherto taken us a week to accomplish. But I was obliged to have everything well secured in my little boat, as it was pressed down so much by the wind, sometimes to the right and sometimes to the left, that it several times shipped water, and in my cabin everything, which was not securely fastened, was toppled over as in a storm at sea.

I did not manage properly this new contrivance, until the contents of an inkstand had been poured over me. Temple-hunting was, under these circumstances, given up, and we passed several of them without regret, as they are all reserved for the journey back; there is besides such a large number that one can well divide the inspection of them into two different periods.

Towards evening we reached the considerable village of Korusko, and the principal landing place on the Nile, whence the caravans proceed directly through the desert to Berber in a fortnight, and by this route cut the way by water, at least one third short.

The journey is, however, very troublesome on account of the want of water. We stayed the night at Korusko, to the environs of which I devoted a few hours of the morning. The landscape becomes here much more picturesque, and in order to give a distinct notion of a genuine Nubian country, I will describe it a little more in detail.

In order to obtain a good view of it, I ascended, with some difficulty, a steep and rocky mountain, fifteen hundred feet in height, on the pointed summit of which I found a small platform, as flat and as smooth as

if prepared for a dance of witches. Here I sat myself down, and examined, with my glass, the wide prospect before me.

Towards the south south-east, as far as the eye could reach, the mysterious and strange looking desert of Korusko lay extended before me. It has not the appearance of a sea of sand but of a row of black and dark red rocks in all possible fantastic shapes, intersected by wide plains of an equal colour, which are planned out as with the spade. At some period or other, the whole of the surface must have been singed by an immense volcanic fire. At present it has the appearance of having been burnt to a complete black, and mineralogists find, in this desert, the strangest phenomena and productions, which are not to be met with elsewhere, and which must be the remains of some convulsions of the earth. The common sand of the desert, is not to be seen in this district, but neither is there the slightest trace of vegetation.

The narrow banks of the Nile, which are seen at a distance in the north-easterly direction, display, however, a beautiful green carpet, and even the steep declivities of the shore, which at the rising of the Nile are covered with water, are now covered with peas and

beans. Here and there green streaks of land stretch deeper into the rock, where, under groves of palm and acacias, the inhabitants have constructed their peaceable huts.

Towards the south-west, a chain of hills closes the prospect; towards the north, however, the country on the other side of the river presents the greatest possible contrast to the remainder of the landscape. The Nile winds at Korusko in such a manner, that from there up to Hamada it points again almost towards the north, so that the wind, which had hitherto been favourable to us, although it did not change, became almost contrary. In our course through life by the bye we often make the same experience, both as regards persons and circumstances. We inadvertently change our course, and lay the blame to the changes of others. But to return to my description.

The whole triangle bounded on the north by the Nile, consists of yellow hillocks of sand, whence rocks of a black colour protrude.

This appearance of black spots on a yellow ground resembles a covering of leopard skin, and is continued to the most distant horizon. Immediately close to the Nile it is bordered by narrow stripes of dense *Mimosas*, whose gay,

sweet smelling blossoms and narrow leaves droop to the water's edge. In this situation, and on the sand in the vicinity, several varieties of the beetle are said to harbour, and a naturalist I subsequently met with at Kartoom, asserted, that he had here met with the true sacred beetle of the ancient Egyptians the (*Scarabee sacer*;) it had a green metallic lustre and the edge of the *elytra* was of a golden tinge.

Several small ridges of rock project from the river itself and their number renders the navigation, from Philæ to Quadi-Halfa, in many places dangerous at low water.

We several times came in collision with them, and the large barge has been leaky ever since. On another occasion the rudder of my boat was broken; but we had it repaired at Korusko.

As it is not safe to proceed by night under such circumstances, our journey will be considerably prolonged by this unfortunate season of the year.

The natives of Korusko brought all kinds of articles for sale to us: shields, lances, straw-hats, kourbatches cut from Rhinoceros hide, and the organs of generation of the Crocodile, which have a powerful odour of musk, and a stimu-



lating property, on which account they are held in high estimation by the natives. Some of them offered us their wives and daughters, whose beauty they highly praised; but on inspection, we were obliged to differ with them.

The disgusting fashion of smearing the face and hair with grease, an inch thick, is sufficient to frighten a European away even from one of their Venuses.

During our sojourn, three boats, laden with slaves, arrived from Dongola. This is the fourth caravan of black slaves, of both sexes, we have seen since leaving Assuan, otherwise, we have met with no travellers, excepting the Frenchmen before mentioned, who were the only pleasure tourists on the Nile.

We could not prevail upon the man who had charge of these slaves to sell us any. The reason is, in part, owing to the fanaticism of these people and in part owing to these transports being the property of large speculators, who import the slaves, on their own account, to Kahira, where they are sure of disposing of them at high prices. The slave-drivers are therefore, probably, not allowed to sell them on the road. We found these poor creatures generally cheerful, sometimes

even merry to excess, and they did not appear to want for anything. The treatment they met with was by no means cruel, not even severe ; their fate may be worse when they are forced to cross the burning sands of the desert on foot.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## YPSAMBUL.

April 10th.

WE were forced to have recourse to towing, by men, and to press some of the natives into our service ; but did not make great progress in this way.

The men who were pressed by our Kawass frequently made their escape, and this caused great additional delay, so that we only reached, by the afternoon, the temple of Hamada, which is small but very beautiful in its details and

dates, from the best time of the Pharaohs. It is a pity that the sand of the desert has covered it so deeply, that you can conveniently pass from the ground to its roof, which consists of *double* blocks of stone, two feet in thickness, placed one above the other.

In the centre of this solid roof the Copts, who made use of this temple for some time, as a church, have broken a large hole, to erect on it, in a bungling manner, a species of cupola of brickwork, whitewashed, and similar to a pigeon-house in appearance; but this, like most of their works, has fallen into decay. The interior of this temple, which we reach by creeping through an aperture, is less covered with sand than might be expected from its external appearance. We observe here fluted columns without capitals, a plain *plafond* as in the Speos at *Khalabshe*, and meet with the rings of one of the most ancient of the Pharaohs, of the line of Thotmores the Third, who is supposed to be the Moeris of Herodotus, of Amenophytes the Second, and some few others.

With Champollion's plates as a guide, it is now very easy for any one who will take the trouble to distinguish most of these rings; formerly travellers did not find this an easy

task. The excellent sculpturings of the interior chambers of this small temple, dedicated, if I remember rightly, to the God *Thrē* and the freshness of the colours are marvellously well preserved, a circumstance, probably owing in a great measure to the work of the Copts, who covered them carefully with plaster, and after that whitewashed them. Among the representations, I frequently observed that of a bird—a species of thrush, which I have often seen flying about in this neighbourhood. This bird was so well and so faithfully depicted, that it would have made an excellent illustration to Buffon's work. It was represented in various attitudes; in one of the paintings, it was perched on the body of a dead animal, bearing a striking resemblance to that amphibious animal with a duck-bill, lately discovered in Australia, the *Ornithorynchos*. Might not this animal have formerly existed in Egypt?

Red and black princes, and among their number a black queen and a reddish brown king, on the point of concluding a treaty, are again to be observed here, and close to them a complete collection of all the produce of the country: vases, furniture, eatables, and other effects. In no temple in Egypt had I as yet seen

so great a variety of objects crowded into so small a space.

The sand round this temple was so burning hot, that it almost destroyed my boots, and I could not keep my foot long, without experiencing pain, in the same position.

It is no fable that this hot sand will hatch ostriches' eggs, for I believe that hens' eggs might be cooked in it in the space of a quarter of an hour.

We passed the night at Doerr, a clean looking village, surrounded by beautiful meadows, and a large forest of palm trees. It was formerly the capital of the country and the residence of the sovereign, and is even now of considerable extent. The sovereign, although he has lost his personal independence, resides here as a Casheff of the Viceroy. Mehemet Ali has adopted this lenient line of policy in several instances, of allowing the native princes to continue in power as his officers.

We inspected the extensive palace of the ex-sovereign, which is built of brick and mud, and we also visited his garden, where we found plantations of vines, groves of orange trees, and a variety of tropical trees and shrubs of great rarity in Europe, cultivated with much care. I was most surprised, however, by two

immense sycamores, the largest I had ever seen, which stood in the centre of two open spaces before the palace, and quite shaded it with their branches. The branches of one of these trees covered an extent of surface equal to one hundred feet. Refreshing coolness always reigns under the foliage of these trees, and no species of tree that I am acquainted with surpasses them in beauty of verdure; for the leaves of the sycamore are of a bright, apple green colour in this climate, which appears to agree best with them, whilst in Egypt they are of a much darker shade.

The forest of palms in which, as I before mentioned, Doerr is situated, extends for many miles into the environs, and furnishes the materials for the beautiful mats which the women of this place manufacture. Some twenty of them, shining with grease, with their hair divided into innumerable small tresses, and decorated with gold ornaments and glass beads, surrounded us, soon after offering us their mats for sale, which they unrolled on the sand, in the middle of the street.

Whilst I was bending down, examining some of their work minutely, I suddenly felt myself embraced by two arms, and on turning quickly round, beheld a horribly dirty old beggar, who

was asking alms in this obliging manner. The inhabitants of Doerr appear to be a very importunate but good natured people ; they are always begging, but obliging and very moderate in their demands. We purchased a number of beautiful carpets of the most elaborate workmanship, and in Europe worth their weight in gold. A carpet of palm leaves, worked with gay colours, of tasteful pattern, and sufficient size to lay as a rug before a sofa, cost only five francs, and on giving orders for several of them to take with us on our return, we heard that one person could not, with the utmost industry and labour, finish a mat of this size under two months. Their earnings are about two and a half francs per month, and the beautifully dyed material is at that price given into the bargain. An article of less size and less valuable workmanship, which, however, according to our notions would be still admirable, costs only one franc. Fifteen years ago money was almost unknown here, at least, among the lower classes, and Champollion had a great deal of trouble in making the men who had cleared the entrance to the temple of Ypsambul for him, receive their payment in money, for they had expected to be paid in kind. Since then they have become very eager



after money, but greatly over estimate its value even now. They only have to meet with a dozen more travellers and European purchasers, to come up to our state of enlightenment in this respect.

The setting sun shone this evening with inimitable tints on the high palaces of Doerr. The whole heavens appeared like a disunited, decomposed rainbow, and in its centre glistened the halo of the new moon, not as Schefer sings, yellow, "like the yolk of an egg," but of a burning green colour, like an emerald, or a golden scrabee. The Nile even rolled along in coloured waves this evening, and the grey sand of the desert had assumed a roseate and silvery tint.

On hearing that a fresh breeze had sprung up, we set sail by sunrise, omitting for the present the inspection of the very ancient temple at Doerr. The country was pleasing, and the day cheerful, with a very agreeable breeze, and I sat quietly under the tent before the cabin, with Susannis, who scarcely knows what to do with himself, suffering as he does from heat, increased by the dense fur nature has bestowed upon him. Observing with envious eye the sailors plunge several times from the boat into the refreshing stream, whilst we were making way

rapidly with a favorable breeze, under a press of sail, he suddenly conceived the unhappy idea of imitating them, and in a few minutes was so far behind us that I was obliged to have the sails shortened. Two Arabs instantly plunged into the river to fetch him; but the rapid stream drove all three quickly down its current, so that they could neither return to us nor gain the shore, while we began to fear for their lives. The two black sailors continued swimming for a full hour before we were able to pick them up, whilst the strongest of the two had, in addition, loaded his shoulders with Susannis, who was totally exhausted. It is really a great merit, and a valuable acquirement to feel capable of such exertion, and neglect of education is the only reason why we are not all thus blessed, for the people here are no stronger than we are.

The decorative scenery of our evening repast which we made on the open boat, scudding before a favorable breeze, was very peculiar. A glorious, resplendent sky, with moon and stars glowing in all their pomp, formed our roof; the liquid metal of the river, which looked by moonlight like molten gold, was our carpet, whilst the right shore of the Nile formed an uninterrupted, dense wall of ever varying trees

and sweet scented shrubs, the whole making up a picture of the most luxurious abundance; for in the shades of evening not a single desolate spot could be observed. The left shore, on the other hand, formed a contrast with the right, like that of animated life and absolute death; for there was the dead, flat, white grey-sand of the desert, almost on a level with the river, and not a trace of vegetation was to be seen.

April, 11th.

It was not without intense curiosity that we approached the old monuments of Ypsambul, or, more properly speaking, Abu-Simbel. Since Burkardt first discovered these rocky temples, the most sublime of all the ruins in Africa, and since Belzoni opened them with inexhaustible patience (for it took him several weeks to clear the sand partially away from the gigantic gate of the largest—and it is in this state at present—) the most persevering travellers have frequently extended their excursions in Egypt to this point, or even to the cataracts of Quadi-Halfa, which are not far distant from it, but strangers rarely penetrate beyond it. Ypsambul has consequently been as often depicted by the pencil as described by the pen, but neither have done it full justice.

The effect of the four colossal statues on the

façade of the largest temple, each about seventy feet in height, which are majestically seated in a quiescent posture, with their hands comfortably resting on their knees, in their niches of polished rock one hundred feet in height, one hundred and fifteen feet in breadth, and twenty four feet in depth, close to the water side, and which, as the faithful guardians of this subterranean sanctuary, have now remained stationary looking on the play of the waters for more than three thousand years, would perhaps be more awfully striking to the imagination of many persons, than the forest of columns and obelisks at Thebes.

As regards high artistic merit, the two works of art may be considered on a par, for nothing at Thebes can surpass, in beauty of form and execution, the sublime expression of these gigantic statues; they are all four alike, representing the heroic form of the great Rhamses, and shew great fidelity of portraiture in the characteristic of beautiful and fine features. One of the statues has been in part demolished by the fall of a large piece of rock, the rest are almost untouched. Belzoni has taken a copy of the features on the right, in plaster, and ought to have shewn at least so much regard for this work of art as to have

the traces of this operation washed off for the reddish brown colours of the stone, now shines through the whitened face of the statue, giving it the appearance of a clown painted by naughty boys.

Everything about this temple has an air of deep solemnity and god-like rest, but it does not produce the appalling effect of Yerf-Hussein, although the architectural arrangement bears a striking resemblance to the latter. There is not the same character of mystery about it, nor the awful obscurity of Yerf-Hussein. Scarcely a third part of the gate which is thirty feet in height, has been cleared of sand, and yet the sun shines into the sanctuary, so that we only required torches to examine the parietal paintings, and the dark lateral chambers.

If the sand were totally cleared away from the façade, we should be able to see from the water through all the chambers hewn in the rock in an uninterrupted line of about one hundred and forty feet.

The first chamber, which is about one hundred and forty feet in length, and about as broad, is supported like that of Yerf-Hussein, by two rows of quadrangular pillars, four on either side ; but they are in this temple of

larger dimensions ; the passage before them, and the spaces between are also larger. The colossal statues reclining against the pillars, like those on the exterior, all bear the features of the great Rhamses, and have the scourge (the Egyptian sceptre) in their hands, and the crooked staff crossed on their breast. The colouring of the robes and cinctures is, in some places, well preserved ; but the damp appears to have affected it greatly, as it has, to a more considerable extent, the parietal sculpture, representing pontifical processions, battles, and sieges, in a diversity of dimensions, varying from the most gigantic to the most diminutive figures ; but which would require a study of several weeks to understand perfectly.

Many of the figures are as curiously grouped, as they are admirably executed ; but others are less perfect in their workmanship. In conception they approximate to the naïf style of our ancient German painters ; but some of them are equal to the antiques in perfection. Thus, on the left side of the entrance, there is a painted representation in *relief* of Sesostriis, seated in a war chariot ; he is depicted in the attitude of sending an arrow after the routed enemy ; this picture reminds one, in a striking

manner, both as regards keeping and form, of the Apollo of Belvidere, and in my opinion it surpasses it as much in youthful beauty of countenance, animated by a true God-like anger, as it does in inimitable boldness and grace of position, and noble and faultless composition of form. The lower portion of the face is unfortunately damaged ; but the whole figure is otherwise in a good state of preservation, as are also the horses and the chariot, which are richly decorated and most perfectly finished. The horses appear to me to surpass all representations of the kind at Thebes.

Among the captives which the victorious Osiris and Rhamses the Great, hold by the hair of the head on both sides of the entrance gate, there appear to be individuals of all the chief nations of the globe, and the character of their various features is so well defined, that they must have evidently been portraits.

The ceiling is richly decorated with large vultures, of a yellow and dark blue colour. Many travellers are of opinion that the yellow colour was gold ; but I have no where been able to find the slightest trace of gold or silver employed by the ancient Egyptians as pig-

ments ; the metals are always denoted by yellow or white colours.

During the time of the Ptolemies and the Romans gold was, undoubtedly, employed. In former times these metals must have been in bad repute as colours, or the preparation of them was not known. I am not now speaking of the yellowing of wood which is mentioned by Herodotus, but gilding, such as that on the gilt heads of mummies, which, as far as my experience goes, is only to be met with from the time of the Ptolemies. I must not omit to mention a curious optical illusion in this hall before leaving it. In a dark corner which has recently been surrounded by a wall (God only knows for what purpose) we observe the tall figure of a magnificently robed, kingly hero, painted on the upper portion of the wall. On ascending to the summit of this crumbling wall to examine the sculpture more minutely by torchlight, we all of us saw the figure of the warrior roll its eyes angrily to the right and left in the most deceptive manner, and this illusion was repeated as often as we held the light in a certain position. The supernatural effect, which we could produce as often as we pleased,



is vividly present, to my mind even now and reminds me of those pictures painted in such a manner that they appear to look at the person examining them, let him change his position never so often. Who knows if a similar acquaintance with the "ruses of art" on the part of the Egyptian painter was not at the bottom of this spectre-like effect.

Two smaller halls now succeed, and three doors lead from the last into the same number of chambers but of less extent than the halls. The central chamber, which is exactly opposite the chief entrance, was, as in all the temples in the rocks, the sanctuary. The sitting statues it contains are much damaged, and the altar standing in the centre consists of a plain quadrangular block of granite, devoid of all sculpture. Besides these chambers there are several others in the temple, fourteen in number, the entrance to which leads by lateral doors from the great halls; they are all long and narrow, and some of them are furnished with massive benches two feet and a half in height round the walls. They all contain painted sculptures, but in some of them the outlines are only traced in black and red lines but with remarkable freedom and precision.

I had read in all books of travels in these parts, that the heat in the interior of the temple resembled that of a Russian bath, and was greatly surprised at not finding this to be the case. On the contrary, we found the temperature in these chambers, lower than that of the atmosphere in the sun outside.

It does not appear that the work of fanatical destruction has ever been carried on at Ypsambul. This magnificent work of art has however suffered considerably by modern amateurs and by natives, who have perhaps occasionally taken shelter here or driven their cattle into the cavern, and lastly, by the dampness of the rock, as I before observed, in which the temple is excavated.

Without the aid of the government we can not expect that this temple, which is at present so very easy of access, will long be able to withstand the encroachments of time, for the sculpture in the interior is chiefly stucco-work, and the brilliancy of the colouring is for the most part already faded.

A second Speos, about half as small as the former, but similar in construction, has also escaped the hand of premeditated vandalism. It was built by the wife of Sesostris, and is dedicated to Hathor (Venus). It is separated

from its neighbour by a broad slip of sand, which in brilliancy of lustre and smoothness of surface, is exactly like a mountain of ice. I endeavoured to climb up this heap of sand to examine more minutely, the frieze of the large temple, consisting of monkeys in an upright posture, eight feet in height, but I found the undertaking beyond my capability, for I slipped at every step as far backwards as I had progressed.

The internal arrangements of this second troglodytic monument resembles the former, but the colossal statues of the king and queen, reclining against the external wall, appear to me more perfectly executed than those of the larger temple, both in the fulness and delicacy of the female form, and the transparency and drapery of the robes are remarkably successful considering the magnitude of the proportions.

A very pleasing effect is produced by grouping the sons and daughters round their parents knees. This arrangement adds to the beauty of the whole composition, and softens the rigid solemnity of the colossal figures by admitting a finer sentiment. The hieroglyphics covering the pillars are not inferior to the most perfect pictures on the buildings of Thebes, although the sandstone on which they

are here sculptured, is nearly as hard as granite. In the pictures in the interior, the queen is always represented sacrificing instead of the king, and other sculptures indicate the inauguration of a girl by the priestesses of Isis. In the sanctuary there is a very singular statue of the king, above whose head the horned cow of Hathor projects in such a manner that the horns appear to belong to the king, according to our notions rather a strange emblem for the temple of the queen.

It is revolting to see in what a shameless manner modern visitors have degraded these works of art, by the most obscene additions in coal or black oil painting. The most abject of the natives would not have been guilty of such vulgarity, and it is a perfect disgrace to think that men who have come from civilized Europe should leave such traces of their visit behind them.

About a hundred paces from the temple, there are a few small niches in the rock, high above the level of the water. The extreme niche, which is quite isolated from the rest, contains a figure which is almost intact, and in a wonderful state of preservation, which appears to me to belong to the most charming

of the creations of Egyptian art. It represents a young girl in a standing posture ; she is of singular beauty, and has a very expressive, but melancholy countenance ; her folded hands rest upon her lap, and as if mourning her own decease, she looks down, as if lost in thought, on the restless flood, a picture of mournful, but angelic innocence.

The country round Abu-Simbel is very peculiar in character, owing to the strange forms of the rocks, many of which appear, from the river, like regular pyramids. A broad wall rises between them, so distinctly representing the upper portion of a colossal face, that it would appear that nature herself gave the ancient Egyptians the first idea of the pyramids, and of their colossal statues.

On the following morning we had scarcely reached, by aid of a favourable wind, the plains of Quadi-Halfa, near the large second cataract, and began to unload our boats, which we are obliged to leave here, when we experienced a fresh khamsin, which lasted, as usual, its full three days. Tormenting as this scourge of the country undoubtedly is, we had reason to congratulate ourselves that it overtook us here, and not in the desert, as it might have done, if it had come on

at a later period ; for in the desert its unpleasantness is increased by the addition of great danger. The wind was so boisterous on this occasion, that we were unable to keep the tents erect, where we had pitched them, and were, therefore, obliged to remain on the water. But, notwithstanding the protection afforded us by a bay, we were forced, during our meals, to load the table with heavy stones, to prevent its being overturned, the raging waves tossed the *Tahabia* so violently about.

These were disagreeable days, and unfortunately the tedious occupation of unpacking all our luggage in this unpleasant weather was greatly augmented by a general indisposition, which scarcely one of our number escaped, during this third attack of the khamsin.

## CHAPTER IX.

EXCURSION THROUGH THE DESERT, TO DONGOLA,  
SAMNEH, DAL, SALI-EL-ABD.

ON the fourteenth of April, the sky had at last cleared up again, and all our preparations were so far completed, as to enable us to undertake our expedition to Dongola.

As the country we were about to travel over may be reckoned amongst those which are but rarely visited by Europeans, I do not deem it out of place to offer a few preliminary remarks concerning the most judicious mode of travelling in these parts ; the

reader will excuse their tediousness, in consideration of their utility.

As the opportunities of joining one of the larger caravans are at present, very rare, the chief current of the commerce of the interior having now taken the direction of Barbary and the Kingdom of Tunis, by different channels ; it is difficult to find a safe and convenient mode of conveyance without the assistance of the government. The cause of this deviation from the former commercial route, is the impolitic annoyance of the absurd, and in every way faulty, system of collecting the customs duties, and the oppression of the merchants, by the provincial governors, which, at this great distance from the seat of government, are extremely difficult to control.

Every European of respectability may easily, however, procure through his consul a firman from the present very liberal government, recommending him to the various governors and sub-governors, and entitling him to receive all necessary accommodations the country furnishes, at the same rate they are paid for by the government. This is especially important as regards the price of the beasts of transport, as you are otherwise left



entirely at the mercy of the unconscionable Arabs.

The camel-drivers here only load about one third the weight, on one camel, of what I have seen a single beast carry, without difficulty, in Barbary. For my luggage, more than one half of which I left at Quadi-Halfa, I required ten camels, a load for which four would have sufficed in Tunis, and in addition to these, six dromedaries, for myself, the doctor, my two servants, the Kawass and the Arab-guide. The remainder of the men sat on the beasts of burden. The persons who furnished the camels were not natives of Barbary, but Bedouins of the desert, who, by Mehemet Ali's invitation, had formed a colony in the neighbourhood of Quadi-Halfa, and have a lawful claim to the right of escorting travellers and furnishing them with camels.

At first whilst loading, they made quite as much unnecessary noise as the Greek Avoghati in the Morea with their mules; but when matters were set a little to rights, they conducted themselves, during the remainder of the journey, with far more propriety and order.

This was the first time in my life that I had mounted a dromedary. As a passing

observation I may mention, (for that which is well known here is not so in Europe) that what are termed dromedaries here, are animals differing in no respect from the camel, but are one and the same animal, with *one hump* for the difference between a dromedary and a camel, is that which we observe between a cart-horse and an elegant saddle-horse. These animals are taught to kneel to be saddled, when you can easily mount them, whilst one of the fore-legs of the dromedaries is tied with long reins and the leader holds its head to prevent it from rising up suddenly, or it would jerk its rider into the sand.

These singular creatures have three joints in their hind-legs, and rise and lie down in three different movements, which appear very rough to the unpractised rider, for he must not omit to lean back or throw himself forward at the proper time, or he will lose his balance. Of this we had several very amusing instances among our own party. The pace of the dromedary, when walking, is very agreeable to the rider, throwing him backwards and forwards like a cradle ; but it is generally urged into a trot which causes the same sensation as a high, trotting horse produces. To keep up at this pace without

interruption for seven or eight hours is a very trying affair, but a short ride for amusement is rather agreeable, and the equal motion conducive to health and appetite. The mode of sitting on the wooden saddle bow, embracing the high pommel with your legs crossed, and thus resting on the animal's back, is very difficult to a European until he becomes accustomed to it.

It is, therefore, advisable for every traveller who has just quitted his boat, to make very short stages the first few days, to accustom himself gradually to fatigue, for travelling on the Nile, as regards motion, or rather want of motion is an absolute life of idleness and totally spoils him. A dromedary will travel at its slowest pace, five miles in the hour, at a quick trot from ten to fifteen miles, and this pace it will keep up for twelve hours or longer without rest.

Mehemet Ali once rode the distance of one hundred and thirty miles, from Suez to Kahira in twelve hours, on his dromedary, to anticipate a conspiracy of the Mamelukes, and his Sais holding on by the tail of the beast reached Kahira on foot at the same time; Sormini asserts, that a Nedji dromedary will travel a distance of four hundred miles in

twenty four hours—this appears to me, however, to be exaggerated. Dromedaries and camels are very ill-tempered and perverse animals ; I never mounted my beast without it making its displeasure known by a grumbling cry, and sometimes by attempts at biting. But like its drivers, I found it, when it was once in march, always willing, and a slight touch with the kourbatch, on its long, ostrich-like neck, sufficed to urge it to its most rapid pace. The rein is not attached to a bit in its mouth, but passes through one of its nostrils, where it is fastened to a small, wooden gag. The signal at which the dromedary instantly lies down if you wish to dismount, is a shrill scream uttered by its rider, which it is very difficult to learn to imitate. No signal is necessary to make it rise again, for as soon as the rider is in the saddle and takes the rein in his hand it gets up of its own accord.

I, as far as I am myself concerned, should have preferred travelling, in spite of the heat, during the day, in order to have a better view of the country ; but the animals, as I was generally assured, cannot support it.

We were, therefore, compelled to proceed during the nights, which were fortunately very light, the moon shining most brilliantly. This

proceeding required the following peculiar mode of life during the whole of the journey. We *took breakfast* at nine o'clock in the evening and mounted our dromedaries at ten, while the camels with the luggage preceded us five hours before. The most necessary articles, such as a small tent, a few carpets, and the chest containing all that was requisite for the breakfast, our *toilette* and writing materials, the dromedaries had to carry in addition to our weight. Before sun-rise, or at that period, we generally reached our night quarters a few hours later than the caravan, where we found our beds in readiness, and the table set out, so that after a short *toilette* we could sit down to dinner at seven o'clock in the morning. When this repast was over we went to bed, and towards evening (our morning) we inspected the sights the country happened to present. The after part of the evening, up to the hour of departure, was devoted to reading and writing. In this mode of life (a very amusing watchman's sort of life) which I recommend to all my successors, we suffered very few inconveniences and all went off so well that we had no confusion or delay. If, as is usually the case, you accompany the caravan, this becomes at last

very fatiguing and monotonous, independent of the nuisance of being obliged to wait, for hours after reaching the station, without a covering, until the tents, beds, meal, etc.: are all got in readiness.

As regards the articles necessary to form the outfit, nothing can be decided, for all men's wants and ideas of comfort are subject to variation. But what a man chiefly requires, let him have much or little luggage, are more especially strong and durable cases, which should also be most carefully packed, for he may make up his mind that a portion of the baggage will daily fall off the camels, or the animals drop with their loads, or run away in alarm.

For instruments and glass he must have double cases with springs, if he wishes to rely on their safety and preservation, as we learned by bitter experience, otherwise nothing of the kind can be preserved, for the rough motion of the camels generally suffices to destroy or dis-arrange delicate objects of this description. As regards provisions, I recommend rice, coffee, dried dates, wine and tobacco. If I include the latter among the provisions, it is not without good reason, for experience has taught me that nothing appeases hunger and

thirst, or rather prevents them, better than coffee and the pipe, on which a traveller might, in a case of need, hold out *for several days* in this climate, without great inconvenience.

It is necessary to take a large supply of rice with you, because it can only be procured at the chief towns in the Sudan, and not always there in large quantities; and wine I have found, in spite of the caution of most European medical men, who advise us not to use it in hot climates, the *best* and most *effectual* means of preserving health; especially champagne diluted with  $\frac{2}{3}$  of water, a beverage which proved more cooling and refreshing, in the long run, than any other. Light rhenish wine, or moselle, are the next to be recommended, for the chief cause of the diseases of the climate are relaxation of the organs of digestion, and are not to be prevented by powerful tonics but by the mildest astringents. A very clever German doctor at Kahira, told me that he owed his preservation, in the murderous climate of Yemen, entirely to Bavarian beer.

As the packing takes up more time on the first day than it does afterwards, we could only commence our march through the desert on the *fourteenth* of April at eleven o'clock at night.

The distance to our first station was only twenty eight miles, and was performed by the dromedaries in three hours.

It was a splendid night, cool and clear, and the desert presented far more variety of scenery than we are accustomed to imagine. We generally associate with the idea of a desert an immense plain of sand, which it certainly is in many places; but here there were many hills and valleys dispersed through it, and grotesque rocks protruding at intervals. The sand is not always deep and crumbling, but for the most part rather firm, so that the many regular impressions of the feet of the cattle of the caravans were as well marked as if we had been travelling over a ploughed field. The clean, dazzling white bones, of dead animals, bleached by the sun, and occasionally of the bodies of men who had perished here, and been dug up by the hyænas, together with the small, black pyramids erected at those points where the road might be lost, contribute, in this desolate place, where all vegetation ceases, to give the desert the charm of character and of a very awful variety. If you are tired of the prospect of the ground, one has only to turn his attention to the legions of stars, which in this zone shine forth with double



brilliancy, whence so many ideas will crowd upon the solitary wanderer, that if he is at all susceptible he need not feel the slightest *ennui*.

At two o'clock we caught sight of our bright green tents, pitched amongst dark looking rocks of various forms near the Nile, not far from a few huts bearing the name of Saleh, and already belonging to the district of Dar-el-Hudshar, which separates Quadi-Halfa from Sukkot.

The river foamed in cataracts, amongst the hundred strange shapes assumed by the black stone of primitive formation named, erroneously, as I before mentioned, by most travellers, basalt, for it is only granite blackened by fire and exposed to the elements. True, prismatic, volcanic basalt, is, as far as my experience goes, no where to be met with in the course of the Nile.

We climbed up a height near the river, and enjoyed, for half an hour by the murmur of the waters, the prospect afforded by this wild moonlight scene, in which trees are not wanting, a few long spined mimosas crowning, at intervals, the rocks projecting from the river. It is a dismal country but full of originality, and M. Cadalvene is quite right when he observes: "Up to Quadi-Halfa more or

less of Egypt is always in view, but at this point a new world commences."

The Arabs intended, on the fifteenth, only to proceed to Saras, but I insisted, taking my directions by M. Cadalvene's maps, on making a longer march to Semneh, in order to be able to inspect the temple there more at my leisure. After several refusals, the men were at last obliged to comply with our wishes, but we afterwards found out that they had estimated the distances far better than our *maps*, for the fatigue of the journey became excessive. The caravan took sixteen hours to perform the distance, and we eight hours, and as we followed it a little too soon and overtook it on the road, we were compelled to bivouac, without the protection of tent or hill, for several hours in the desert, in order to give the men time to get our night quarters in readiness for us on our arrival.\*

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\* It was not until I had made this unpleasant experience that I provided myself with a small tent, which I packed up, for a time of need, on the dromedaries, a provision I have before recommended others to make.

Notwithstanding the oppressive heat of the day, the nights are frequently, especially during the strong winds, which are now blowing from the north, piercingly cold, so that we required both great coats and cloaks even during the exercise of riding.

During the time of our bivouac the temperature became still less supportable, and after a short, uneasy sleep, we all rose so numbed by the cold that we experienced great difficulty in keeping time with the movements of our dromedaries in mounting them. I was necessitated by the cold I caught on this occasion to take a day's rest at Samneh, and I was not sufficiently recovered, until next morning, to take a view of the country and its inhabitants.

We had again chosen a very unpleasant spot for our camp ; it was near the Nile under the shade of some Doum-palms, Mimosas Sandal trees, and a beautiful broad-leafed shrub with green berries, from which the natives manufacture a deadly poison. Rocks of pseudo-basalt, still protruded from the river and extended along its shores, a portion of which, however, was well cultivated and enlivened by a few huts dispersed over it. Not far from this spot is the site of the ruins of an ancient town

supposed to be Tasitia. The buildings were all constructed of bricks dried in the sun, and among their ruins stands, on an isolated rock, a small, but elegant temple, bearing the rings of the Pharaohs, Ortoasis the Third and Thotmores the Fourth. On the right and opposite shore of the Nile, we observed the ruins of another larger temple, but we were obliged to defer the inspection of it, for want of a boat to ferry us across.

The sculpture and hieroglyphics of the small temple, which contains a single chamber resembling a corridor, for it cannot be termed a hall, are in part very elegant and some of the colours, viz., the blue of the ceiling and its yellow stars are in tolerable state of preservation. At a more recent period, however, a long row of hieroglyphic writing has been engraved on the centre of the ancient figures, on the external façade; but it is of such execrable workmanship, that coptic christians could not have executed it worse. In this temple, two of those antique, fluted pillars of the ancient Egyptians, similar to doric columns, are again to be met with. These appear to be the only columns that were originally in the temple, which is decorated on the side facing the river, by a kind of

gallery supported by four pilasters. A series of rocky islands here cross the river to the other temple; the greater number of them bear the ruins of walls, which belonged, most probably, to fortified castles, intended to close the navigation of the river in case of need.

An English traveller has leaned to the hypothesis, that these might be the forts surrounded by water, represented in one of the battle scenes at Thebes. Although this conjecture appears rather too bold, it is a certain fact, that the conquests of Rhamses not only extended to this point, but to a much greater distance towards the south; of these latter we have far more proofs extant than of those in the northern direction.

If he really conquered all those countries into which he carried, according to Diodorus Siculus, the terror of his arms, the hiatus in history, as far as he is concerned—and this applies more especially to the jewish historical works—must remain a very remarkable coincidence.

M. Cadalvene asserts that he was frightened near these ruins by very large hyænas; we only saw a few yellow gazelles which, crossing the road at full gallop, were vainly pursued

by our dogs, for they soon found a place of refuge in the desert. Like M. Cadalvene, we here met a large carayan of slaves from the interior of the country; but we have not the same observations to make respecting them. M. Cadalvene, with that melancholy cast of mind which seems to have taken possession of him in Egypt, saw everything in as dark a shade as the colour of the slaves themselves, whom he describes as gliding along like despairing forms of misery, whilst we saw them pass with laughter, jesting with us in their national language, well fed, adequately clothed for this climate, where the natives are nearly naked, and proceeding lustily on their journey without any trace of sorrow or care. Why pervert things and represent them differently from the truth? Slavery in the abstract is certainly in a state of civilization, revolting in the extreme. No one will deny that! But I certainly must, according to my own observations, dispute, that the individual fate of slaves here—taking *their* education and *their* habits into consideration—is very sad and miserable, even during the worst period, that of their conveyance to Kahira, for their want of clothing, their food consisting of dhourra bread only and a few vegetables, or dates, and the water of the

Nile, they have in common with all the poor and very moderate people of these climes ; nor is it for them a great hardship to walk on foot if not ill, (in which case they are always allowed to ride) when they cannot be conveyed down the Nile.

As soon as they are sold their lot is, in the East, generally speaking greatly improved, and sometimes their career brilliant. Nevertheless they are occasionally troubled with nostalgia, and the chief source of their misery is probably this desire which they cannot appease.

But how many of us fare much worse in this respect ? Are not many driven by the slavery of *necessity* or by our political laws doomed to a similar fate—to banishment from our country under more oppressive and more painful moral relations ! We have only to adhere to the spirit rather than to the letter and we shall then judge in more cases more correctly, and more leniently of foreign customs.

There is moreover, in the relations between master and slave in this country, more poetry for both parties than our modern and frequently very prosy reformers are capable of feeling, before whose minds the idea of in-

creased labour by free slaves is always floating.

I say *free slave labour*, because our labour in many parts of Europe is equal to the drudgery of slavery, sometimes even worse, and is far more prejudicial and demoralising in its effect.

It is far from my intention to advocate slavery, I merely contend that in the East, in the present state of civilisation and with relations totally at variance with our notions, slavery should not be judged of in a narrow minded point of view.

Towards evening I made a pedestrian excursion to a village in the vicinity. The huts were constructed of straw mats surrounding posts driven into the ground, whilst a few stretched horizontally over them formed the roof. Partition walls of the same material divided the interior into two or three compartments. Well cultivated fields, but small in circumference, surround these huts.

In the first I entered, I found a sick soldier from Dongola, who was attended by a very pretty black girl; he introduced himself to me as the former governor of a village there con-



sisting of six families. I left the sick man to visit the second residence which was rather larger.

Here I found a very old woman lying on the ground, who took no notice of me. Close to her sat a young girl busily employed in grinding dhourra on a large, smooth stone, and in the corner stood a well formed young woman, whose skin resembled the softest satin ; she seemed to be making her *toilette*, for she was just fastening a few strings of glass beads round her right arm, and afterwards fitted a ring into her nose. At last I espied, behind the old woman, a friendly, cheerful looking boy with a very open countenance, dazzling white teeth and a dense curly head of hair.

On first seeing me he laughed outright, but when I approached him he ran away screaming, and took refuge, with all the symptoms of fear, behind his sister who was grinding corn. I held up a glistening new piastre, but was unable to entice him to me ; and his naked sister, who stared at me in astonishment, also refused it by signs. I was about to return it to my pocket, when the handsome young woman hastily stepped forward and took the piastre with a smile out of my hands, and then pressed her hands with the most gracious

look on her lips and forehead in sign of thanks.

This lady had undoubtedly been somewhat civilised by the military governor, for the rest were perfect savages and totally naked, with the exception of a small rag bound round their hips, a species of fig-leaf, which was rather longer for the females than for the boys.

Natives, who speak Arabic, are rarely to be met with here, nor is their language (that of the Barabras,) generally used in this district, but is in all probability an idiom of Arab origin, mixed with that of the aborigines. What with the frequent emigrations, conquests and changes of religion, to which the whole of Nubia and Ethiopia have been subject at various periods, it is no doubt very difficult if not an absolute impossibility to come to a positive conclusion respecting the true origin of these numerous mixed races, although thus much may be deduced with certainty, from their external appearance; that they are blacks but no true negroes, for the shape of their faces is that of the nations of Caucasian origin, and their hair is curly but by no means woolly.

Of all those who have ventured on hypo-

theses on the Nubian tribes, our indefatigable Burkhart must still remain the first authority, for his successors have done little more in this respect than copied from him, an example which I must beg to be excused the trouble of following.

Whilst continuing my ride through the fields, I found about a dozen natives, men and women occupied in threshing out corn and beans with sticks, an operation which is otherwise generally performed in the East and in Africa, by animals. A short time afterwards the young woman, with whom we were already acquainted, came and joined them, in order to take part in the threshing, with all her finery. On seeing all these figures so totally in a state of nudity, squatting round the heap of corn and beating incessantly at it with their sticks, they appeared to me exactly like monkeys, who had seen threshers at work, and now, armed with clubs, were endeavouring to imitate them.

The intimate acquaintance I formed, on this occasion, with the people procured me, indeed, but very little notice, not being able to speak to them; it had, however, the advantageous effect that they, at last, sold me milk from the cow and fresh vegetables, which they had

formerly refused to the Turkish Kawass, whom I had sent to them for that purpose, probably from the fear of not being paid.

A refreshing bath in the Nile, with a throne of black granite, formed by nature, by its side, where I could dress and undress myself, completed my idyllic labor for the day ; I was not a little alarmed, however, when, on leaving the river, close to the spot I had chosen for my bath, I observed the fresh trace of a crocodile as fine as an Egyptian hieroglyphic, printed on the smooth and soft sand of the banks.

At midnight we quitted Samneh, and arrived on the seventeenth, shortly before sunrise, at Tangar, after a journey, on horseback, which lasted rather more than five hours, where we were indeed, near the Nile, and within view of the most beautiful green shrubs and bushes, on the opposite side ; but were obliged to encamp in the midst of the scorching sands, without the shade of a single shrub.

The camels had again been travelling double the time that we had, and this was, indeed, the case during the whole route, so that according to this calculation, we could always safely send them on before us.

During our march in the night, at which

time, after the moon had gone down; it became very cold, we observed two caravans of slaves and three camel-transport, in the soundest sleep, looking as motionless as if they were dead, rolled up in a heap on the road, so that we mistook the first mass of this kind, until we came close to it, by the uncertain light of the moon, for nothing more than a curiously formed heap of stones.

Many thousands of camels are at present annually sent from the Ethiopian countries, to Egypt, and the supply of slaves is even more considerable.

The day which succeeded this cold night was the hottest we had hitherto felt; thirty-five degrees Reaumur in the shade. Everything we touched was exceedingly hot, the metals glowing, and a bottle of Eau de Cologne, which I placed in the sand, was, in a short time, almost boiling.

Whilst dining in the tent we observed an enormous white vulture, which, attracted by the scent of the victuals, came marching towards us with great gravity, and perfectly fearless, as it seemed. We allowed him to advance to within ten paces, when, being in range, he was received with a charge of large slugs. Although these, as we afterwards convinced

ourselves, were all well lodged in his body, he again took wing and we were obliged to pursue him for a long time, before we could capture him, and despatch him effectually with stones. He was a beautiful bird, measuring above six feet when his wings were extended, and furnished with enormous claws, which must be, no doubt, formidable weapons. As we had no means of stuffing the body, I availed myself of this prize merely to mend the condition of my pens, of which it supplied me with a considerable number though rather colossal in size.

In the evening, a negro, in the service of the Pasha, arrived at this station from Dongola, and gave us some very useful information, and, at the same time, amused us with all sorts of fabulous tales. According to him, there were conjuring Albinos on the island of Danghos, behind Old-Dongola, and farther up the country, Gholes were to be met with; but in the country of Senaar, he said, there was no doubt that syrens still existed, of which he assured us he had himself seen more than one. It is curious that the latter story should be repeated in every country and in all ages.

In the night, from the seventeenth to the

eighteenth, the desert might have been called truly coquettish. Boldly formed blue lines of mountains surrounded us in the distance, and near us rose continually the most grotesque figures.

We could often have sworn to the fact of our riding past abandoned cities and castles, and beholding gigantic, antique works of art, now in the shape of an enormous cup, or urn, now, of a pyramid, or obelisk.

As soon as the moon disappeared, she was instantly replaced by aurora, and the sun unobscured by a single cloud, glaring above the mountains, shone with the brightness of the purest gold, over this silent, and immeasurable space ; the path through the desert resembled, in many parts, a causeway of more than one hundred feet in breadth, as hard and as good, as a Macadamised road, and bordered on both sides by low ranges of hills, crowned with granite, bearing the appearance of regular dams. We on one occasion found, in the middle of this road, a neat grave, consisting only of two carved stones, between which, an elegant mosaic was formed of quartz in arabesques.

The bones of camels lay strewn about as white as snow ; but no inscription indicated

to whom this monument was dedicated, or who had here met a solitary end.

At seven o'clock, we approached the Nile, which, enclosed by high mountains, forms here a charming archipelago of numerous islands, covered with verdure. Other islands, consisting of black masses of rocks, rise far above the green ones, and many of them bear on their summits the ruins of extensive and once fortified castles, erected, as usual, only of bricks of dried earth. These ruins frequently indicate buildings, in the form of pylones, no doubt imitated after those of Egypt, or according to tradition thus continued ; for even to the present day, the more wealthy of the inhabitants here build their palaces in the same manner. The largest of these abandoned heaps of ruins must, to judge by its circumference, have been the castle of an ancient ruler, or a powerful monastery, and the whole neighbourhood, to the west of the river, which is capable of being well irrigated, to a considerable extent, from its flat situation, betrays, even to the present, traces of a former flourishing condition. This spot is, certainly, one of the most picturesque on the Nile, and in close vicinity to the river ; it is still well cultivated, and covered with detached dwellings of



brick, which extend for about an hour's distance along the river to the island, and to the large village of Dal. Amongst them may be observed the ruins of some old churches, one of which still exhibits several paintings of stately apostles and saints.

In Dal, where they had pitched our tents in a rather dense forest of palm-trees, we found the peasants, who were commanded by an exceedingly well behaved Nugir, much better bred, and possessing more confidence than we had hitherto met with in the Dar-el-Hahshar. Some twenty of them came with their Sheik to meet and welcome us, and offered us every thing they had for sale. He that wishes to live cheaply must travel hither ! For the value of two francs I purchased the following articles :—a fat sheep, four quarts of goat's milk, a wild duck of the size of a goose, and a pair of very neatly plaited sandals, made of the leaves of the palm-tree.

As a great curiosity, I must mention the fact that fowls, which you are obliged to eat in the East, and particularly in Egypt, until you become disgusted with them, are creatures perfectly unknown here. The natives only know the eggs of wild birds ; but they have a great aversion towards them as food.

The heat was again, at three o'clock in the afternoon, thirty-five degrees in the shade, and we found it much more tolerable under a palm-tree in the open air, on account of the greater current of air, than in the tent, where the air had become so suffocating, that even the fanning, with the little flags of various coloured straw in use here, and which are attached to a short cane like fly-flaps, produced no other effect than that of wafting towards one a heat like that of a baker's oven.

During dinner time we were obliged, as we had done on the day before, to steep the glasses continually in cold water ; for, to leave them for a moment was sufficient to make them glowing hot on the table in the tent.

One's daily occupation is simple enough during such a journey, and it is not without singular charms ; but it ought, for the most part, to be of a contemplative nature, for even reading becomes, at this temperature, a painful task, and writing absolutely a burden. I sadly regretted not having a secretary with me here ; for, like Prince Facardin, I am generally in the habit of having one about with me. The individual himself, however, who may be destined for the future to fill this office, may congratulate himself, that

he is not already employed, for his duties, which I am obliged, of necessity, to fulfil in his absence, would, no doubt, have appeared to him intolerably arduous.

My tent lay at this time, as it were, imbedded in the vegetation, and had round it a wreath of those poisonous shrubs which are at present becoming every day more frequent, and are not only full of green fruit, of the size of small apples, but in this part of the country at the same time richly adorned with white and blue blossoms. Still more than the crown of the kingdom of Italy does this plant deserve the motto, "*Gare à qui la touche!*" Blossoms, fruit, branches, leaves, all are full of a fat, milky juice, which squirts out with the least pressure, and if it happens to get into the eye will certainly deprive one of sight. It is, also, fatal, if administered inwardly, and the natives never failed to warn us anxiously against it. Less dangerous, but still more unpleasant, we found the long-thorned acacia, a projecting branch of which placed itself in such close connection with my silk kaftan, whilst making to-day a little tour along the river, notwithstanding the heat that I required the assistance of two negroes, who happened to be passing, to

regain my liberty, though with the loss of a part of my dress.

The most amusing spectacle to me in the evening is the loading of the camels which lasts as a general rule from four to six o'clock.

The manners of these curious animals with their giraffe-like faces, their swan-like necks, their stag-like bodies and cow-tails, together with the grotesque hump, and their hind legs which, as if furnished with hinges, they double up cleverly and with great precision into three parts, are too amusing to witness without laughing.

Like ill-bred children these animals scream and squeak at every touch, always look in the highest degree melancholy and indignant, but do not lose a moment during the time their anger lasts, to chew the cud most assiduously, and as they, during their mastication, move only the lower jaw in equal measure and with great gravity to right and left, this operation gives them quite the appearance of an old woman, endeavouring with her bad teeth to chew a crust of bread. Their teeth however are but too good, and when they are angered their bite is so terrible, that we were told at Kahira, that a camel had in the

preceding year bitten the head off the officer on guard at the Gate of Peace. I myself saw them, with astonishment, biting off and chewing the branches of the mimosa together with its thorns which are as firm as iron and measuring five inches in length, as naturally as if they had been lettuce leaves.

With the last groan of the camel, which indicates the completion of the loading, and upon which the whole caravan starts off, one animal tied to the other, I daily resort to the invigorating river-bath which has hitherto always agreed with me, notwithstanding the penetrating coldness of the Nile water. Why, however, the Nile should never reach the warm temperature of our rivers in summer, although it flows through an immeasurable plain and is exposed to the scorching rays of the sun, I can scarcely account for, if it is not to be ascribed to the freshness of the nights, which in general succeed to the most intolerable hot days ; but as far as I have hitherto observed of this climate, are never attended with frost.

After the bath the nocturnal breakfast is usually taken, seasoned most pleasantly with

some lively conversation about our fatherland with Doctor Koch, who has seen and experienced much, and knows how to narrate his observations with a good deal of humour.

A few hours' sleep on the carpet in the cool of the evening completely refreshes, and when the full moon shines high from the heavens we again remount our dromedaries.

19th.

During this night and the following morning, the desert still continued romantic in its appearance.

Amongst other striking objects we observed several groups of hills scattered at regular distances and formed like square and pointed *Tumuli*. I observed to my dragoman, who bears some resemblance to Eugene Sue's droll Losophe, that these must be tombs, for nature could not have formed them so regularly ; he, however, answered laconically :

“ Nature creates everything as a pattern for man.”

And in fact this curious formation, which is by no means very rare in the extensive plains of Asia and Africa, is well known to the geologists.

In the morning, a troop of large, white gazelles remained stationary near the road, and would have probably stood within range if we could have prevented Susannis, who is very ill-bred, from hunting them. This feat of his afforded us at least the amusement of observing them gallop with the rapidity of the wind across the plain, as far as we could follow them with our eyes.

The tameness of the animals living in a state of freedom, proves that they are little incommoded by huntsmen, for large birds of prey besides the vultures, one of which we shot a short time previously, approached us daily in a similar manner ; and at Dal a beautiful bright plumed bird, with a crest like a cockatoo, hovered round me with the greatest curiosity for at least five minutes, and only left me when I reached my tent. When the sun had risen high in the heavens, we thought a large portion of the plain was covered by bright green vegetation, until, on a closer inspection, we found that this coloration depended on a smooth species of slate, which was blue when closely examined, but in the distance, caused the deceptive appearance of moss-like grass. After six hours' march we reached Saki-el-Abd, or the aqueduct of the slaves, because the slaves make this a resting station. The river in this

situation, is about a mile in breadth. On the left shore on which we encamped, there are but few huts and two large sakis, but on the opposite shore, we observed in a forest of palms, extending to a great distance, a considerable village, shaded by a magnificent, high tabular rock, and in it a very large building, flanked by two of the before described modern Pylones, giving it in the distance the appearance of the ruins of an Egyptian temple. We here found a boat to ferry us across, and in the village opposite, a well stocked market to replenish our diminished supplies.

The temperature was this day  $28^{\circ}$  f. in the shade, and we found it very cold. Before proceeding further, I must observe, that in Cadalvene's and Rüppel's maps, neither of which are very accurate, the distance from here to Dal is exaggerated by thirty miles, very nearly half a degree, for judging by the equal paces of the camels and our dromedaries it is not further than that from Semneh to Tangur and from Tangur to Dal, three days marches not differing from each other as much as half an hour. I mention this for the information of travellers.

I leave it to the scientific men who may succeed me, to correct by careful admeasurement, these



and innumerable other faults at present existing in most of the maps of this part of Africa. But in order to give an idea of the fidelity and accuracy of M. Cadalvene, I will quote a very amusing paragraph from his book in reference to this place. My quotation is not altogether useless, in as much as he every where endeavours to decry Mehemet Ali and his government, although during his stay at Alexandria, he for a long time solicited employment in the Viceroy's service, and asked permission to publish an Egyptian journal, which was refused him. *Hinc illæ lacrymæ!* But to return to the paragraph :

“ Sakiel-Abd,” he commences in his usual style, “ was almost depopulated when we arrived, for the greater part of its inhabitants (N.B. of the five or six huts) had fled to the desert, being unable to pay the tribute demanded of them. Sometimes these runaways return in a few months, when they hope they will no longer be disturbed.” (How could they hope for any such good fortune if the tyranny were really as consistent and systematic as M. Cadalvene represents it throughout to be?) “ But many of them take to a nomadic life, and every year witnesses the fresh depopulation of whole villages in this way.”

“ In the absence of all inhabitants” (who probably instead of having fled had crossed the river to go to market in the village) “ we took a few beds (*engarebs*) from the houses near us, and carried them to the river, where we established ourselves to avoid the white ants and more especially the scorpions *which creep out of their places of concealment by thousands during the night.*”

Now we bivouaced at the same spot, in the very same month, without seeing a single scorpion. Hereupon I made enquiries among the natives and the men accompanying our caravan, concerning the two subjects thus brought forward by M. Cadalvene, first: the flight of the inhabitants of the village, and secondly: the immense number of scorpions. No one knew anything of the first fact, and as regards the second, scarcely any of the natives had ever seen one of these animals, which they told me begin to be general before reaching Dongola beyond the desert.

As most of the exaggerated allegations of M. Cadalvene against Mehemet Ali are of the same description, and as a trace of those horrors of which he accuses the government can scarcely ever be found on making enquiries on the spot, I have never read a paragraph of this

kind where the author takes so much pains to sting, but only spends his impotent venom, without exclaiming with a smile: "Another of M. von Caldavene's thousand scorpions!"

On the evening of the 21st the caravan started as usual at 6 o'clock, and we followed at three in the morning, after having first witnessed a very characteristic scene at Saki-el-Abd. I was sleeping soundly in my small, temporary tent, when I was suddenly awakened by the loud noise of drums and the discharge of musketry. I jumped out of bed, and was in no small degree surprised at observing, instead of the full moon, a darkness like that of night, whilst the firing and noise of the drums was continued. A total eclipse of the moon, more complete than I had ever beheld, of which the almanacs gave no account, soon explained all.

The natives, who had hastened with all this hubbub to the assistance of the moon, and to prevent the black dragon with which they supposed it to be engaged in direful combat, from totally devouring it, were much alarmed at this occurrence, and regarded it as a very evil omen. All endeavours on the part of my philosophic dragoman to explain the matter in a natural way to them were as abortive as if

he had attempted to endow some of our modern pietists with sound sense. The good people adhered to their original opinion, and when the eclipse had passed, lived in the pleasing conviction that they had done a great deal by their resolute demonstrations towards saving the moon this time from the awful predicament in which it had been placed. I afterwards heard from a Faki, in Dongola, where the same means had been adopted, to ward off the calamity—a far more refined explanation of them.

“It is only the ignorant,” he observed, “who believe it to be a dragon which endeavours to swallow the moon. We are better informed. The moon is as much a living being as we are, and a very high potentate in the heavenly sphere, which is governed by God, just as the earth is ruled over by the Sultan. Now, if one of his vice-regents does not do his duty, the Lord of the heavens cuts his head off, or sends him a silk cord.

“Now it is quite evident that the moon drew this punishment upon himself, and when his face became darkened, we fired guns and raised cries of lamentation to convince him of our sympathy and readiness to assist him, for he might yet be pardoned. But as soon as we

saw there was no chance of a reprieve and that he totally disappeared, we increased our noise, and shouted with joy, to recommend ourselves to the favour of the new moon, who made her appearance with greater brilliancy than the last, scarcely two hours after his execution !”

It is evident that people of rank here know as well as we do what is befitting a clever courtier ; for they cry out when it suits them *Le roi est mort, vive le roi.*

The road, led for the greater part of this day, through cultivated land, so that we had the desert on our flank.

Considerable villages, several miles in length, and well built of brick, shaded by palms, and surrounded by fertile fields, which will, in three or four months time, yield a second harvest, are evidence of the proportionate wealth and security of property enjoyed by the inhabitants, since the commencement of the government of Mehemet Ali.

We still met caravans of slaves and camels. One of the former had encamped in a very picturesque manner, in a garden, near the ruins of Sedenga, and caused us great amusement, as we passed through the midst of them.

A group of giddy girls bantered us in every possible way, and found ample subject for jest, in our white skins and foreign costume. To our enquiry if one of the prettiest and merriest of the lot were for sale ? we received as an answer a very abrupt “ No !” for the slave-merchants from the interior appear to feel as great an aversion to the infidel dogs of Christians, as the slaves themselves. I am convinced that not one of the individuals of the whole company would have changed conditions with us, if the opportunity were offered them.—Everything in this world depends on opinion.

## POSTSCRIPT.

I HAVE this moment read the account of the singular abdication of Mehemet Ali in the newspapers, a rumour which has been corroborated by official reports, sent direct from Alexandria to his majesty our king. Some persons explain this conduct of the heroic veteran as the effect of cowardice or the imbecility of age, others even as that of insanity. Both conjectures may possibly be correct, considering the frailty of human nature; nor would it be in any way astonishing that a man who has devoted his whole life to an arduous and grand undertaking, should lose his reason when he sees all his labours in one moment destroyed by the hands of bunglers. But knowing Mehemet Ali as I do, and regarding this recent event in connection with a contemporary treaty of commerce concluded between the Viceroy and the Governor General of India, I consider the whole affair as one

of Mehemet Ali's deep-laid plans, carried out with his usual prudence and cunning.

He by this means delivers himself into the hands of England, well understanding that, deserted as he is, in his present misfortunes, by all his friends and surrounded by the intrigues of the Egyptians, in which his own family are probably also implicated, he will find in England, which might overthrow him, the power which can again reinstate him, while he now has a better insight into the mutual advantages likely to accrue from such an alliance.

Mehemet Ali is no pedant—he takes a plain matter of fact view of things, and does not regard them from an ideal standard, but always turns them to his own advantage, as far as it is within the range of practicability. Whether this be a wise course for a monarch to pursue or not, I must leave to others to decide—but that Mehemet Ali approves of this line of conduct, he has shown from the very beginning, and I believe that he has on this occasion acted on the same principle. At all events he may expect to reign more securely under the protection of England, than he could possibly do under that of Turkey or any other European power, and under no other circumstances would he be able to find so free a scope



for furthering the interests of his subjects (for the English are no pedants either)—the sole and most glorious task that now appears to be left him.

The future will shew whether I am right in this explanation of Mehemet Ali's views. He certainly is old, and virtue is in contradiction to the proverb. "*tugend hat theine ugend*," more frequently met with in youth, than fortitude in age. However, there is no rule without an exception—and I still continue to regard old Mehemet Ali, although in the common course of nature, near the end of his career, in this light.

Sagan, August 22nd, 1844.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.













